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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

TWICE-A-MONTH

FOUNDED 1876

MONTHLY IN JULY AND AUGUST

AUGUST 1924

VOL. 49, No. 14

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Published—Semi-monthly, September to June inclusive; Monthly in July and August—at 62 West 45th Street, New York. Entered as 2nd class matter June 18, 1879, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under act of March 3, 1879. \$5 a year; 25c. a copy. Copyright, 1924

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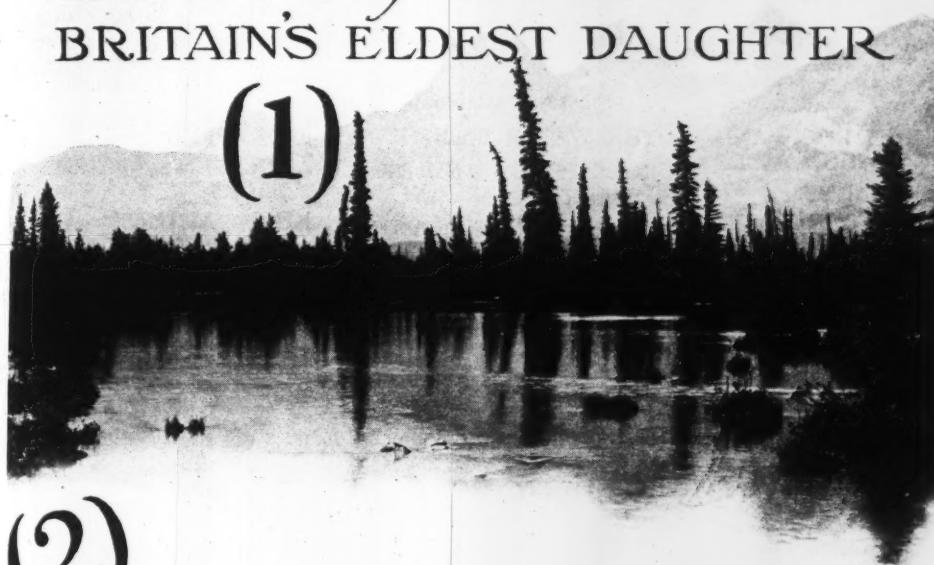
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The 20th Century Empire

CANADA

The LAND of the MAPLE LEAF BRITAIN'S ELDEST DAUGHTER

(1)



(2)

CANADA. "The 20th century belongs to Canada," said Sir Wilfrid Laurier, then premier of the Dominion, as the tide of immigration at the beginning of that century began flowing into the great Canadian Northwest. By this he meant that, as the 19th century saw the rise of the United States from one of the smallest and poorest nations to the wealthiest and one of the greatest, so the present century would be marked by a notable expansion in population and wealth in Canada.

For this high hope Laurier had good grounds. Canada's population of 5,000,000 at that time was concentrated in a narrow belt along the southern boundary, just as the 5,000,000 of the United States in 1800 clung to the Atlantic seaboard. Beyond this belt lay the vast heritage of the Northwest, awaiting only the plow of the settler to make it one

Extent.—Area of Canada, about 3,730,000 square miles. Extent east and west, 2,700 miles; north and south (excluding Arctic archipelago), about 1,600 miles. Most northerly point, Cape Columbia (in Grant Land), about 475 miles from the Pole. (Newfoundland and the Labrador coast are not included in the Dominion of Canada.) Population, about 8,790,000.

Rivers and Lakes.—St. Lawrence, Ottawa, Nelson, Churchill, Red, Saskatchewan, Athabasca, Peace, Mackenzie, Slave, Yukon, and other rivers. Largest lake (evidently) Great Lakes, which form part of the southern boundary. Great Bear, Great Slave, Winnipeg, Athabasca, Reindeer, Winnipigon, Manitoba, Nipigon, Lake of the Woods.

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Chief Cities.—Montreal, Toronto (both over 500,000 population); Winnipeg, Vancouver, Hamilton, Ottawa (capital) (all over 100,000); Quebec, Calgary, London, Edmonton, Halifax (over 50,000); St. John, Victoria, Windsor, Regina.

8

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Library Book Outlook

Two particularly noteworthy works have been published during the past two fortnights. They are Bernard Shaw's long-awaited play, 'Saint Joan' (822, Brentano's, \$2.25) and Part Two of Marcel Proust's monumental novel, 'Remembrance of Things Past,' in the excellent translation of C. K. Scott Moncrieff, entitled 'Within a Budding Grove' (Seltzer, 2 vols., \$5).

Both of these works are, of course, intended for judicious readers, and Proust's in particular may prove to be caviare to the general. As a specimen of good bookmaking the Shaw publication leaves much to be desired; but the Proust volumes display many points of excellence in design and execution.

Light fiction is represented by two titles, 'A Gentleman of Courage' by James Oliver Curwood (Cosmopolitan, \$2), a story of love and adventure in the Lake Superior wilderness, and 'In a Shantung Garden,' by Louise Jordan Miln' (Stokes, \$2), the romantic tale of a young American business man's experiences in China.

Drama is further represented by an English translation of Ernst Toller's 'Man and the Masses' (832, Doubleday-Page, \$2), a play of the social revolution recently produced by the Theatre Guild.

The only new poetry book of importance is a travel-poem anthology, entitled 'The Magic Carpet,' compiled by Mrs. Waldo Richards (821.08, Houghton, \$3).

Essays and Miscellanies include a new Stephen B. Leacock book, entitled 'The Garden of Folly' (828, Dodd-Mead, \$2), an anonymous English humorous book, entitled 'Augustus Carp, Esq., being the Autobiography of a Really Good Man' (828, Houghton, \$2); a translation of selections from Voltaire's 'Philosophical Dictionary,' prepared by H. I. Woolf (848, Knopf, \$4); a volume of 'Medieval Lore from Bartholomew Anglicus,' compiled by Robert Steele (398, Oxford Univ. Pr., \$1.85); 'Quotable Anecdotes for Various Occasions,' compiled by D. B. Knox (808.8, Dutton, \$2.50); and the first of a new series of annual compilations, entitled 'The Best News Stories of 1923,' edited by Joseph Anthony (070, Small-Maynard, \$2.50).

Other contributions to the study of literature are 'Tendencies of Modern English Drama,' by Arthur Eustace Morgan (808.2 Scribner, \$3), which presents our present-day drama as one of ideas, and gives a full study of its philosophical background; and 'From Goethe to Byron,' by William Rose (830, Dutton, \$2.50), which is subtitled 'The development of Weltschmerz in German literature.'

Travel and adventure are variedly represented by 'The London of Dickens,' by Walter Dexter (914.21, Dutton, \$2.50), comprising fifteen carefully-selected rambles which cover the

whole of Dickens' London; 'Sweden and Its People,' by Robert Medill (914.8, McBride, \$1.50), a descriptive account intended for travellers who are limited in time; 'Spain To-day,' by Frank B. Deakin (914.6, Knopf, \$2.50), a realistic picture not of the picturesque Spain of the tourist, but of its medieval-seeming government activities; 'From a Terrace in Prague,' by B. Granville Baker (914.37, Brentano's, \$4.50), informative sketches of Bohemia's medieval city, illustrated by the author; 'Wonders of the Himalaya,' by Sir Francis E. Younghusband (915.4, Dutton, \$4), travel-sketches and descriptions full of oriental charm and old-world beauty; and 'Big Game and Pygmies,' by Cuthbert Christy (799, Macmillan, \$7.50), a record of the experiences of a naturalist in Central African forests while in search of the okapi.

Three autobiographies of note are 'The Last of the Heretics,' by Algernon Sidney Crapsey (Knopf, \$3.50), whose career includes that of a soldier in the Civil War, a postal clerk in Washington, a lawyer's apprentice, and a Christian minister; 'A Long Life's Work,' by Sir Archibald Geikie, the noted English scientist (Macmillan, \$7); and 'Before the Mast—and After,' by Sir Walter Runciman (Chas. E. Lauriat Co., \$4.50), being the sea-adventures of a veteran British shipowner, going back to the 'sixties. Other biographical works are 'General Botha,' by Earl Buxton (Dutton, \$5), a life of the soldier, statesman, and leader of South African fame; and an anonymous sensational volume of 'Uncensored Recollections' (Lippincott, \$4.50), affording glimpses of the great and near-great among the Victorian aristocracy of England and France.

The new history books include 'The Waning of the Middle Ages,' by J. Huizinga (940, Longmans, \$5), a study of the forms of life, thought, and art in France and the Netherlands in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; 'Gossip of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries,' by John Beresford (942, Knopf, \$2.75), based on English literature and history; 'Bulgaria and Roumania,' by Lord Edward Gleichen (949, Houghton, \$5), issued in the Nations of Today Series; 'The History of the United States Army,' by William A. Ganoe (355, Appleton, \$5), which claims to be a pioneer work on the subject; and 'A Short History of International Intercourse,' by C. De Lisle Burns (327, Oxford Univ. Pr., \$1.75), a 159-page historical account.

In sociology and political economy there are 'The World Unbalanced,' by Gustave Le Bon (150, Longmans, \$3.50), a psychological investigation of present-day conditions; and 'The National Government and Business,' by Rinehart J. Swenson (353, Century, \$4).

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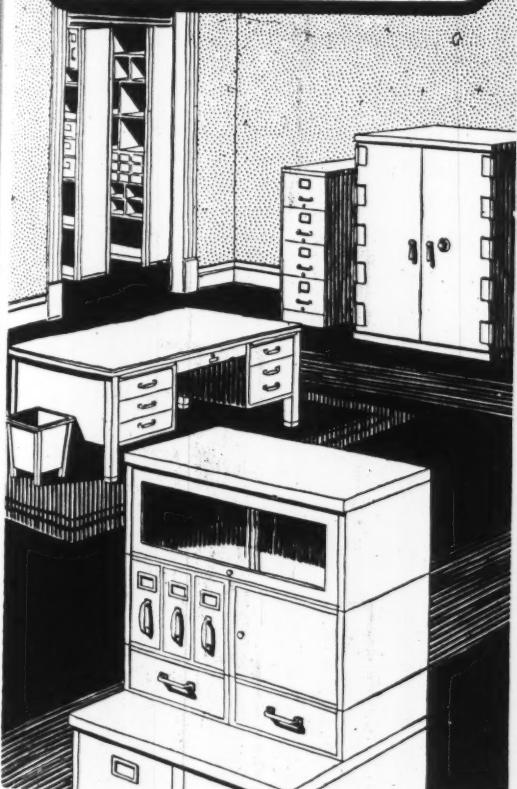
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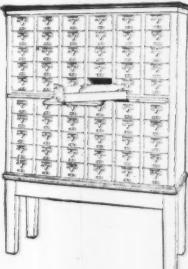
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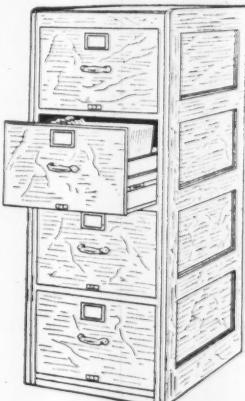
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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

TWICE-A-MONTH

AUGUST, 1924



What the People Are Reading in Boston

By FRANK H. CHASE

Reference Librarian, Boston (Mass.) Public Library

ALL God's chillun got glasses in Boston. Everybody reads; but the public libraries don't know just what. On our Athenian heights, we may well remember the heroes of Dinas Vawr, in Thomas Love Peacock's "Misfortunes of Elphin," who sang

"The mountain sheep are sweeter,
But the valley sheep are fatter;
We therefore deemed it meeter
To carry off the latter."

The people of Boston are fond of valley sheep. Public libraries were, I suppose, founded with the aim of encouraging people to read; my observations, however, have convinced me that the people have got far beyond the need of encouragement. They are all gaily reading exactly what they please, under the library's nose, and behind its back; and the librarian is quite unfamiliar with a great portion of their chosen reading-matter.

A few years ago, that eager genius, H. G. Wells, in the course of his goings up and down, made a great find; he discovered God, and simply had to tell the world about it. "God the Invisible King" was the result. I too have made a discovery, and, altho it may be an old story to many librarians, I must tell what I have found.

Before beginning, I wish to emphasize the fact that the story and its application are restricted to the big city. Of the village library and its public I cannot speak; but it is my impression that conditions in Boston are not typical of the smaller and remoter places in which the public library is still the chief influence on the community's reading.

The first fact to emerge, as I went about asking questions, was that the people's reading has broken loose from all traditional bounds and standards. The second was the overwhelming bulk of the reading-matter supplied by the daily newspapers, and eagerly con-

sumed by the public. All other sources of reading are completely dwarfed by the output of the daily press, in the per capita consumption of which it is worth noting that Boston leads the country. The nine important Boston dailies publish 10,500,000 copies each week, as against the Public Library's circulation of 3,000,000 books in an entire year. The annual consumption of these nine daily papers amounts to 550,000,000 copies; and it must be remembered that this mountain of newspapers is bought by the people, one paper at a time, for real cash.

This cash is paid, however, not primarily for the news, but for excitement. The most imposing sales are made by the papers whose first appeal is to the imagination; in fact, I am told by an editor of wide experience that in many cases it is only the sale of the evening editions, which are slight in news value, that makes possible the publication of the more solid and expensive morning editions, while every Sunday paper seeks to emulate the success of the *Saturday Evening Post*. It is sensation, not information, that the public of the newspapers—our greatest reading public—most urgently demands. The big headlines call "Here's a good story"; only very seldom do they say "Here's a significant piece of news."

This engrossing power of the sensational was well illustrated in a recent examination given to applicants for employment, of high-school age, by the Boston Public Library. In response to the question, "What article of news in the papers of the past week has most interested you?" a large proportion of the boys and girls gave an account of the so-called "Suitcase murder."

Not long ago, on the death of a Boston editor who had built up for his paper a phenomenal circulation, another Boston daily, in its editorial tribute, remarked that he "had a great perception of the way the simple and almost commonplace things of life might be so staged

* Paper read before the second general session of the A. L. A. Conference at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., July 1, 1924.

as to prove of striking appeal." The paper created by this master of stagecraft sells 2,500,000 copies a week; it is the biggest morning paper in America; and circulation experts come from all over the country to study the methods by which the miracle is performed. On the other hand, the two papers in which the world's news is handled with the greatest sense of perspective and regard for permanent significance have a combined circulation of only 750,000 copies a week.

"Get readers," runs the motto of the modern newspaper, "and with all thy getting, get circulation; for so shalt thou sell advertising by untold pages." The papers get readers by giving the people what they want; and the papers know—they are not hampered by any illusions or preconceived notions.

In the course of my inquiries I also gleaned some items about the reading of Boston, from the standpoint of the bookstores. I learned, for example, that Papini's "Life of Christ" has been of late the best seller, aside from fiction. Another fact of interest is that 7,500 copies of Robinson's "The Mind in the Making" were sold in Boston, as against only 6,000 copies of Zane Grey's "The Call of the Canyon," prior to the issue of the cheap reprint of the latter book. At the moment, Edna Ferber's "So Big" is the most widely read novel in Boston, judging from the sales; as a matter of permanent taste, however, Hugh Walpole is the most steadily popular of living novelists among the better class of Boston readers. The circulating libraries report that the subjects of never-failing interest to their borrowers are, for men, mystery and adventure, and for women, love; tho one suspects that now and then, by way of exception, a rare woman may read a detective story, and that once in a while a love story may get into the hands of a stray man. The chronic novel-reader, man or woman, demands excitement—anything with power to distract him and absorb his attention.

If there were time, it would be of interest to speak of the fashions in novel-reading—to tell how war-stories were succeeded by tales of the psychic, and of the immediate prospect of a wave of novels tending toward a better understanding among the races and the nations, books expressing the international spirit and the desire for peace. I should be glad also to touch on the valuable work of the Boston Booksellers' Committee, made up of three representatives each from the Booksellers' Association and the Watch and Ward Society, which for ten years past has kept the worst books out of the bookstores—for their own protection.

But I must hasten on to my real revelation,

which came very recently, as the result of a visit—my first—to the establishment which is the distributing centre for the news-stands and periodical dealers of Greater Boston. We all see unfamiliar magazines in trains and on news-counters, and wonder, just as we might wonder where all the chickens on a poultry farm came from. If we once saw the big incubator in action, we should know. I've seen the incubator!

In the News Company's store I saw a case of perhaps 250 samples of periodicals, all large sellers, most of which are unknown to the public libraries, I saw hundreds of bins, in which the daily shipments to retailers are collected. I heard of the nineteenth of the month, the great day on which, each month, this company sends out 100,000 magazines to its dealers. I saw a wall fifty feet long, on which were displayed in solid ranks the 1,500 titles of Street & Smith's Fifteen-Cent Series, from Nick Carter to Laura Jean Libbey.

How many librarians, I wonder, are familiar with the *Western Story Magazine*, a fat issue each week, full of new adventure stories? Boston consumes 19,000 copies of this publication weekly—76,000 a month, 988,000 a year. Of the magazine which is Boston's peculiar pride, on the other hand, only 3,000 copies, aside from annual subscriptions, are sold monthly in the city—in a whole year about one-half the number sold by the *Western Story Magazine* in a single four weeks; yet this 3,000 is a fine sale, and we rejoice in it. A newsdealer in Saratoga Springs tells me, by the way, that it is exclusively men who buy the *Western Story Magazine*.

The magazines of great sale are not chiefly made up of rot. The appeal of romance and sentiment is far stronger and wider than that of mere physical sex; but the strongest appeal of all seems to be that made by adventure. The same thing holds true of the novels, both original issues and reprints, handled by the News Company; the men want Zane Grey, the women Ethel Dell. The elect clientèle of the bookstores differs subtly in its tastes from the larger public of the News Company; it wants adventure, but prefers the manner of Sabatini to that of Zane Grey. So far as I can learn, Harold Bell Wright has never been a prime favorite with either stratum of Boston readers.

Now what is the bearing of these facts, and of many more which I might cite? Just this. It is futile for the public library in large centres of population to compete with this great stream of uncensored reading-matter—newspapers, magazines, bound fiction. The people are reading; we no longer need to urge or

encourage them. And they are willing and able to pay for what they want to read. It is interesting to note in this connection that the commercial circulating libraries have come to regard the public library as an impudent intruder in the field which belongs of right to them. There are about 435 of these institutions in Boston; and they object to paying taxes in order that the Public Library may be aided to compete with their business!

People will pay whatever it costs for excitement, for mystery and adventure, for romance; Papini's "Life of Christ," the Boston best-seller, owes its position to its emotional quality, not primarily to its religious subject. Parenthetically, the people will also pay for instruction in etiquette. It is an open secret that Emily Post's excellent book stands immediately behind Papini; it is probably not so well known that of a recent ten-cent treatise on etiquette, 1,700 copies were sold in two days in a New York cigar store. Whatever our responsibility in regard to promoting good manners, we are certainly not called on to feed the flame of excitement; and we ought to say so with conviction.

The public libraries have a great field of service in caring for the needs of earnest students of all types. They are responsible for providing the real books of the past for all who wish to read them. They have the great task of training the children of the community in right habits of reading, and the equally important one of carrying on the work of Americanization thru the wise use of the printed page.

In short, the constructive social work of the public library in promoting education and general culture is unlimited. We ought especially to give to the person who is out of school, and dependent upon us, whatever he wants for self-education; this is the most important civic function of the library.

Reading, as such, was never before so plentiful, so cheap, so universally accessible. For the price of his carfare to the Library and back the citizen—at least if his mind is of the twelve-year-old type of which we have heard so much—can purchase reading-matter enough to keep him occupied for two full days, with the powerful aid of the great advertisers who help to pay the cost of the enormous five-cent papers.

Education, on the other hand, was never so expensive as today; the field is so boundless. There was never before such an earnest demand, and so wide-spread, for practical books of every sort, especially in the fields of business and technology. It is our mission and

our opportunity to develop and meet this demand.

The attempt to provide the public with its daily ration of excitement gets the library, and the public, nowhere. If we accomplish it every day for a year, we end just where we began; and we are just that much less able to resist the demand during the year following. The appetite for excitement is insatiable. It grows by what it feeds on; more or less doesn't matter. If the reader may have this, why may he not have that? If he may have it to-morrow, why not today? There is no stopping-place; but there is also no movement, no progress. The demand is essentially static, and to meet it is no real service to the community; we do nothing constructive when we strain our resources to supply the public with this sort of reading. It is for the most part the service of minds which have lost the power of development. The libraries, like the schools, should seek to be a dynamic force, upbuilding the community and its members with something that makes for progress and growth.

The people can and will get what they want to read; we cannot stop them, and it would not be our duty if we could. As a whole, they are quite indifferent whether the public library buys "The Plastic Age" or not; librarians spend hours trying to decide whether to purchase one or two copies, and while they debate, the people of Boston have purchased 1,500 copies, from a single bookstore. They do not need our help in getting current fiction. They are independent, as befits this pleasure-chasing age; why not admit it? We could not satisfy this static demand if we would; and, if we could, it would not be worth while.

What program have I to suggest? Briefly, minimize the static element in library service, which does not count, and correspondingly magnify the dynamic element, which counts tremendously.

I would try to persuade every public library to place all its current fiction, with a few rare exceptions, in a "pay" or rental collection. Those whose happiness depends on their having a novel while it is new can get it from such a collection on the same terms as at a commercial circulating library. At the end of a year, the hot demand is over, and the books, at least in large part, are paid for. They can then be transferred to the regular collection, where they will become available like any other library book. I would further cut down to a minimum the replacement of the adult fiction which wears out, except for works of acknowledged literary merit.

The money thus saved I would put into serious, constructive service—into the material for

adult education, in its various phases, and into publicity which should bring it home to the people that they can get at the public library whatever they want of solid value. For this work—the purveying of education—we are and always shall be better placed than the newspapers and magazines or the circulating libraries. This field—the field of the dynamic—is ours. The static field of amusement belongs to the periodical press, the circulating library, and the movies; at best, we can only scratch it. The story of the "better mousetrap" applies here: the people have found the way to the ephemeral reading-matter which they want, and have made it a broad and beaten road; let us supply books of permanent value so effectively that our public will come just as surely and confidently as does that of the Sunday paper or the *Western Story Magazine*.

As a corollary to this program I would apply the influence of the public libraries toward raising the quality of the newspapers—the one thing that everybody reads. The public taste is in their hands; they can mould it as can no other force. The outlook in this direction is promising, as one editor after another gets a higher conception of his opportunity. The great mass of readers must be saved thru the periodical press, if at all; it is beyond the reach of the library, in any large sense.

What are the people reading in Boston? The answer depends on who "The People" are. In every community there are at least four distinct reading publics: the children, the foreign-born and those handicapped by circumstances in the race for education, the students, and the great mass who turn to books for excitement or relaxation. The first three of these classes read for growth, and are ours; the fourth is inert, and, as a whole, we cannot touch it. We should bend to our honorable task, and leave this mass to those who can reach it. Our path of service lies elsewhere.

Southeastern Library Association

AT a dinner of the Southeastern Library Association held in connection with the A. L. A. conference at Saratoga Springs, sixty-seven members were present. A meeting of the Executive Committee followed, and a ballot was cast by the committee and an official representative from each of the Southeastern states.

Four invitations were extended for the next meeting, Asheville, N. C.; Biloxi, Miss.; Louisville, Ky., and Signal Mountain, Tenn. In true democratic fashion it required two ballots to

reach a decision, which went in favor of Asheville, N. C., the exact time to be determined later by the executive committee, approximate date November first.

Lloyd W. Josselyn of Birmingham, Ala., was appointed chairman of exhibits.

Charles B. Shaw, librarian of North Carolina College for Women at Greenville, chairman of the program committee, reported that it was the decision of that committee to adopt "Adult Education" as the topic to be discussed. Serving with Mr. Shaw are Charlotte Templeton of Greenville, S. C.; Margaret Jones, library organizer, of Richmond, Va.; and Charles Stone, librarian of Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn.

The official representatives of the states were Lloyd W. Josselyn, Birmingham, Ala.; Tommie Dora Barker, Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. Lillian Griggs of North Carolina; Mrs. H. D. King, Jackson, Miss.; Nora Crimmins of Chattanooga, Tenn.; George T. Settle, Louisville, Ky.; Adelaide Baker, Norfolk, Va., and Mrs. Etta Robert of Wheeling, West Va.

The meeting was presided over by the vice chairman of the Association, Mrs. Caroline P. Engstfeld, of Birmingham, Ala., and Miss Charlotte Templeton of Greenville, S. C., secretary-treasurer.

CAROLINE P. ENGSTFELD, Vice-Chairman.

The New Reference Service on International Affairs

THE Reference Service on International Affairs was inaugurated April 1, 1924, as a department of the American Library in Paris. The first bulletin, dated July 1, has for its topic the "Present Status of the Postwar Settlement." The purpose of each bulletin is to summarize the facts essential to an understanding of the problem dealt with and to give adequate bibliographic references to the most authentic material. The purpose of the service as a whole is "to give currency to the facts of international relations, as distinguished from opinions concerning them, and to demonstrate and to apply library reference methods within its field." Denys P. Myers, acting director, writes: "Working with the best available background and perspective the Reference Service intends, by carefully prepared digests, to afford the public an adequate and concrete view of salient features of international activity. It will direct attention to the publications which give additional details, making use of all forms of printed matter from newspapers to official documents. It will forward no cause and cater to no interest except that of giving out correct information, itself being scrupulously as neutral as the dictionary."

What People Are Reading in California

By MILTON J. FERGUSON
Librarian, California State Library

WHEN Kipling wrote "East is east and west is west, and never the twain shall meet," he doubtless had in mind an east that is further away from its west than is Boston from Los Angeles. A census of the population of the world's greatest city, speaking in terms of square miles, would show that the east has literally transferred itself to the west; and so intermingled itself therewith that to tell which is which were utterly impossible. And when we propound the modern Delphic query "What are people reading in California," we are safe if we answer in characteristic Hibernian manner easily enough understood at America's cultural hub, "What are people reading in Boston?"

In the days of early America it was readily possible to distinguish Vermonter from Virginian. Each locality had its own marks of dress and of tongue. The coonskin cap and the long rifle of Kentucky were greater oddities a few hundred miles away from their home than are today's rarest wonders actually or by film transported at great cost from the uttermost ends of the earth. The prairie fire of fashion lighted on our eastern shore sweeps in a night over mountain and plain and extinguishes itself in the none too pacific waters of the western sea. King Tut costume, the latest cut in shingle or bob, the plaintive virtues of a tropical fruit, the best seller—life of Christ or of the current western hero—all have their little day thruout the land and give way to successors treading hard upon their heels in endless procession. Ours is a land of all kinds, degrees and qualities who despite dissimilarity have attained American uniformity. What was it the school principal desired? That all the pupils in all the schools should at the same moment be hearing the same jazz record on the victrola? We have pretty nearly attained that ideal which will be wholly ours when the radio has somewhat extended its reach.

Writing is a business today. The young man or young woman may well be imagined as weighing the attractions of the law, of real estate, of publicity, of authorship to decide not so much in which field his genius may find happiest expression, but in which he may best "sell" himself to the largest number at the highest price. Parenthetically speaking, and

weighing a librarian's salary in the balance of present economic conditions, I do not have the heart to point the finger of scorn at such commercialism. Man must eat; and luxuries are necessary. And if he decides upon art or on letters he has only to turn to the advertising pages of any of our popular magazines to obtain the address of an infinity of schools anxious for a consideration to teach him how to step into the \$10,000 a year class. No one will deny that the occasional super-craftsman with pen, or more probably typewriter, will find his place whatever he may have started out to be. But he is the rare exception, he who burns to express thoughts which will be said; the great bulk of our print is produced by artisans working regular union hours.

And if authorship has become a trade, publishing no less has been systematized with the object in mind to keep running at as great a profit as possible. And to a certain extent no one may quarrel with such a plan; if the publishers do not stay in business, they cannot publish even a Keats or a Dickens or an Elinor Glyn, whenever at long intervals such genius is born. But sometimes are we not justified in thinking that too many of the publishers ask themselves too insistently, "Will it sell," not "How good is it."

We are very close to this endless flood of print which pours from the presses. We are justified in a feeling of horror that so many acres of God-made forest, verdant, whispering, protector of life, should each day be ground into pulp and sent out as printed leaves which today are and tomorrow are cast into the oven and burned. Is it a glorious thing that a magazine should have a circulation of a million or two a week? Is it evidence of the hold literature has upon the American people? Or is it perhaps proof that our salesmen are possessed of a Mephistophelean genius, and have made literature merely the framework which prevents inflammatory adhesion of one advertisement to another? On the other hand if we could turn back the pages of dead history, if we could get excited over the problems of forgotten yesterdays, might we not learn that our feelings and convictions were those of the human race since print began; that in proportion to numbers of readers and mechanical capability the leaden words of even the brilliant age of Shakespeare vastly outnumbered the

*Paper read before the second general session of the A.L.A. Conference at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., July 1, 1924.

golden? The works of the always magical past have been filtered thru the critical years: we enjoy the living residue, forgetful of the discarded mountain of dregs. Who knows, may not some future generation turn with wistful eyes to the literary America of the 1920's, applaud with fervor the stuff which first saw the light in B. Franklin's *Avalanchean Weekly*, or wonder why the giants of extinct race who produced our tales of western adventure were not in their day more justly appreciated by that queer but fervent sect called librarians? The difficulty is we do not know where the finger of time may touch and approve. At least let us conceal that unmistakable evidence of old age which ever faces backwards. Let us rather continue young and view even the eccentricities of author and publisher as normal and regular.

The war showed us the value of propaganda; publicity became king. We might modernize a Napoleonic slogan into "God fights on the side of the greatest advertisers." The book trade has not been slow to catch the idea. And we are impressed with the necessity of buying a book a week, of taking books with us on our vacation, of making it a book Christmas, of giving books for presents. Out on the Pacific Coast the seventy-odd clubs in a Rotary district recently gave their retiring governor, not a silver cocktail shaker, nor an extra special set of golf sticks, but a book, autographed by its president, for each club represented. So by word of mouth, by poster, by radio and by printed page we are not permitted to forget that a book's a book, an altogether desirable thing. Surely we librarians should rejoice and be exceeding glad: the day of the book universal is dawning.

The great daily newspapers have their weekly book supplement or page, the little papers run their book column. It requires only a fleeting glance at such propaganda to learn that great literary geniuses are not the exception, that like fools they must be born every minute. A book page is open before me as I write. Here in a single number are some astounding declarations:

"It is a sensitized plate upon which a man's entire soul has been caught and held by forces subtle and altogether intangible."

"The book carries with it the unexpected revelation of a most singular mastery of English prose."

"It is, we thought, not a book to be read at a gulp, but one to be taken slowly, deliberately. Put it down for a spell, you come back to it. Just as you come back to life after you have sought to solve its riddles in your dreams."

"Some critic in the east called her the Hardy of the west."

"... Calls it the best comedy yet written by an American."

"We might even go so far as to call it the great American novel of the year."

"Soon all the critics will be writing and everyone

will be talking about the most interesting book of the year. It will be . . ."

—and here the clever columnist inserts the name of the particular classic in hand.

Of such stuff is the newspaper book page generally compacted. It is too often unfortunately written without any appreciable degree of literary intelligence; but after the great American public has had its newspaper weekend jag, many librarians are able to testify that as book publicity it hits a popular bull's eye. Such a book page is a filler, a sop to the publisher who advertises. The business office has, perhaps, whispered of these momentary classics, "Use them gently, poor things; they are with us for a fleeting moment only." But with all its defects, as the old maid thought of her belated and somewhat uncertain husband, it is better than none. Reform is always a possibility.

But, you snort like Hashimura Togo expounding important matter, what are people reading in California? Do you recall that when Polonius, full of wise saws, asked the Prince, "What do you read, my lord?", he got back for answer, "Words, words, words." When Hamlet was pressed further for the matter that he read it would be interesting had he given the title of the "Jürgen" or the "Cytherea" of his day; but he merely generalized, "Slanders, sir." And no doubt we out where frankness is not a sin must confess that we have at least one point of similarity with the gloomy Dane: we, too, read our quota of slanders. Fiction quite naturally is popular and makes up the bulk of our reading. Despite the reality of our mountain grandeur, the majesty of our ocean, the soft beauty of valley and plain we revel in the world of dreams. Perhaps for the moment we cast ourselves in the character of the hero or heroine of the tale; maybe, we gain a new strength in being a party to the surmounting of difficulties and obstacles found within the covers of a book; by chance, we may merely read because reading may make thinking unnecessary.

Then we read the newspaper; but perhaps that is merely further acknowledgment of the charge that we indulge in fiction. To some the headlines on the front page, the pink or green sporting section and the doings in "Gasoline Alley," the adventures of Andy, Min and little Chester, social chatter, and stock quotations are quite as essential in starting the morning right as are grapefruit and fragrant coffee. And in the evening the latest edition makes an excellent screen behind which to nod while digesting a too generous dinner and waiting for the night's Mah Jong tournament or excursion into movie land.

A librarian in my flock undertook to make a survey of what the people were reading in his library. He played Sherlock Holmes or William J. Burns, made notes and sent them to me. As he looked over a public's shoulder—not perhaps a polite proceeding and only justifiable because of necessity or goodness of the cause (this paper had somehow to get itself written), he found the shoulder's owner deeply absorbed in No. 9 in the March Monthly Score of most popular fiction. For those librarians who may not be fully conversant with the batting averages in the two major leagues, "Fiction" and "General," let me hasten to explain that "The Covered Wagon" in March had slumped to ninth place.

What we may ask did this particular reader read? Just words, words, words? Was he a movie fan who had learned that the publishers had put the story in book form; and was he astonished to find how they had departed from the true screen version? Perhaps he came of pioneer stock and thru his veins flowed the blood of those who had dared, in days long since gone by, to break trails over trackless wastes, to carve a commonwealth out of a vast domain of tangled mountains, of limitless forests, of mirageful desert.

And then as this scout of mine ran down the line, peeping over other unsuspecting shoulders, he found one reading the life of Father Junipero Serra who planted the Franciscan Missions in a California of a romantic, a spiritual day as far distant almost as the tombs of the kings on the Nile. Let us hope from that stirring story he may have learned that patience, persistence, frugality, humility of spirit, are virtues today even tho the automobile has displaced burdened donkey and skirted monk on the "Camino Real."

Another eager soul pored over the life and adventures of Joaquin Murieta, a bold bad man of California's gold days, who lived a life so magical that one looking upon his exploits might well rub his eyes and ask "Is this history, or is it Hollywood?" That reader sought and found romance, daring, marksmanship, a kind of western chivalry—qualities which have caught and held the fancy of most men and many women since the world was young. Perhaps he found there adventurous satisfaction which urged him, not to go and do likewise, but to stick at a clerky task, to pump gasoline at a filling station, to receive deposits at a teller's window, a member of the work-a-day American public.

"All I can say about what Californians are reading," replied a very clever county librarian to my query, "is that whatever people anywhere in the world are interested in is in demand

some time in California, for where could a more cosmopolitan assemblage of people be found and what country is not represented?"

Freud may be popular with a farmer; and a farmerette has been known habitually to read Greek classics in translation at noontime while the horses munched their oats and alfalfa. The study club and the library have combined to teach the people that the *Atlantic Monthly* is written in a language fairly understandable despite its Bostonian origin. History, science, philosophy, plays from marionette to heavy tragedy, etiquette, fruit culture, irrigation, cooperative marketing, health, mountain, lake and ocean, travel, how to be a movie star, old fashioned astronomy, economic problems, boy scouting, religion and politics, blue sky, real estate subdivisions and distractions, how to catch, domesticate and train the tourist however ferocious and from whatever clime, family trees, plain and fancy gardening, the automobile going and standing still, paid for and on the installment plan, golf and other excuses for taking a half day off in the middle of the week, life, just life, the joyous dance and the sober march of life in all its multiplicity of aspects and phases—these are the things that people are reading in California. If there be anything good and true and beautiful in recorded thought, and, I know, too, if there be anything wild and naughty and frowned upon by censor with lily-white conscience, you will find it being read out there where the skies are a little bluer. For, forsooth, in the words of one who knew a bit about human nature, "If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that."

If we differ from you who hail from Providence town, sir, or you, madame, from Georgia, Minnesota, or Oklahoma, it lies not in the kind, variety or quality of reading, but in the opportunity that is ours to read; or rather I should say the opportunity to get books to read, for with us there is so much of joy and work, of things to do and things to see, that were we not very, very unusual no reading at all would be done in our fair state. We as librarians believe in books; we hold them friends who comfort and who inspire, who, true, sometimes cause us to stumble along a miry slough when better choosing would give us sure footing on grassy ways where trees curtsey, and birds make melody and flowers reproduce the colors of the poet's imagination. We believe, very largely, in letting man select his own route; we are not traffic officers, primarily, but somewhat experienced travelers who given the opportunity set up markers along the highway. And we are conscious that when we are strong, when we know the things we should know, when we have zeal, when we honor our job, those who

come to us are made better, stronger, happier. A wise librarian is a right royal companion, whether the journey be dress parade on the king's highway of philosophy, or a day's outing along the knickered byways of genial humor.

Californians read everything. Thru their 139 public libraries, thru their forty-two county libraries having 3,000,000 volumes, 4047 branches, 2400 of which are in schools, thru their State Library at the head of the system, they can readily, easily, quickly secure any book fancy or vocation may require. The children of our state are growing up with books; they are learning, day by day, that education means the ability to use one's powers, to utilize the stored-up experience of the past as recorded in the printed page. Adult education is being practiced with us. It is no surprising thing to a county librarian to receive a request from the heart of the mountains, three days beyond the end of the wagon road, a place so remote that a Ford has never penetrated or a real estate sign reared its head, for the ten-volume edition of Nicolay and Hay's "Abraham Lincoln." No doubt you smile, thinking some ambitious teacher, pioneering it for a term, is continuing her studies for a higher degree; but I tell you the set is wanted for a half breed Indian miner who, tho buried in the distant wilds, has a heart beating in harmony with the teachings of a great and kindly patriot. With such a plan is there not cause for hope that books may make their contribution to democratic stability, to human happiness?

I have no proof that the Californian, endowed tho he be with powers and virtues beyond those of ordinary men, comprehends the broader meanings and the subtler shades of every word he reads. But I do trust to his ability to read between the lines. I believe that when his book on the great out of doors tells him how to build a camp fire, or how to fashion a bed at the end of the day's hike, he feels not alone the genial warmth of the flame, or sinks to sodden sleep on fragrant boughs. If I am any judge of him, he visions a cold stream in everlasting combat with its tortuous boulder-strewn mountain bed, and rainbow trout sporting therein; he breathes in the fragrance of the pine, the spice of grease wood and sage; he catches a glimpse of distant mountain peaks clothed in the majesty of eternal snows; he applauds the chorus of the birds; and is made alert, eager, refreshed by the movement of sylvan creatures into whose fastnesses his imagination transports him.

Men move slowly down the avenues of time. Miracles may not be fashioned in a day. We shall not awake on the morrow to find all men made wise by reading, to find crime abolished

thru the wisdom of books, to find prosperity and plenty captured and confined, world without end, in the grass plot before the door. But people are reading in California, that we know; their opportunity to read is abundant and increasing. We are not exercised greatly over what they read. Let the state, the nation read deeply, and we may face the future with easy conscience.

We as American citizens, on the eve of this one hundred and forty-ninth birthday of our great nation, must bend our energies and our powers to the preservation of that priceless gift of liberty and of opportunity for happiness so dearly purchased by the founders and so valiantly fought for by their successors. Librarians, disseminators of information and truth, bringers of recreation and joy, may play a major roll in our national drama. We of the west clasp hands with you of the east, the north, the south in renewed promise to strive for a better interpretation of our lines.

Free on Request

The Cunard Steam Ship Company Limited, of 25 Broadway, New York City, will send free on request copy of its booklet "How to Route Freight to and from Inland Points in the United Kingdom." Some of the useful features of the booklet include cities in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales having population over 10,000 and over 100,000; counties in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales; population of the United Kingdom; map of British Isles; Metropolitan boroughs of London; population of Greater London; Port of London Authority docks; Southampton to London service; distances, in miles, by rail between points in England, Scotland and Wales.

Copies of two recent pamphlets, one "Historic Homes," descriptive of the history of the growth of New Orleans, 1838-1903, and one of the "Mid City Section of New Orleans," both with illustrations, have been placed in the hands of the Howard Memorial Library. To procure these, address directed and stamped (3 cents) envelope to Librarian, Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans, La.

To the Editor of the LIBRARY JOURNAL:

I am very desirous to obtain by loan or purchase a copy of the Index of the *Literary Review* of the *New York Evening Post* issued in July 1923. I propose to have photostat copies made of this Index for the benefit of several librarians and our own files.

HENRY S. CANBY,
Editor, *The Saturday Review*.
236 East 39th St., New York City.

Selective Cataloging at the Harvard Library

By THOMAS FRANKLIN CURRIER
Assistant Librarian, Harvard College Library

YOU remember in the old play how M. Jourdain was surprised and delighted to discover that for years he had been talking prose. We at the Harvard Library have recently discovered that since 1915 we have, without knowing it, been engaged in the fascinating process of "selective" cataloging. I say 1915, for in the summer of that year our famous old alphabetic-classed catalog which had served us for more than half a century was suddenly changed over to the dictionary form, and since then we have been slowly modifying and revising it. What I have to say to you today will be limited to describing tendencies and methods that have been developed in this transformation; we have not as yet been able systematically to put our theories into practice thruout the entire catalog, but have been applying them here and there where greatest need was felt.

In the preparation of this paper I have not inquired into experiments made in this direction by other libraries, for a survey of this nature would have necessitated a "questionnaire," and I am quite sure I owe you no apology for its omission. It is for you in any discussion that may follow to call attention to similar experiments and to point out under what conditions such methods may not produce a happy result. Two standards must be kept in mind in judging our practices; first, that of their intrinsic value as producing a catalogue ideally suited to certain ends, and second, their bearing on the cost of cataloging, a serious item in library budgets. In other words, is so-called selective cataloging to be adopted only because it may cut down the financial burden, or because it is in itself desirable?

Let me at this point give due credit in the planning and elaboration of our methods to our director, Dr. Coolidge, who has contributed liberally of his own time even in working on details, and it will pay you to read the paper he presented at the Swampscott meeting, printed in the LIBRARY JOURNAL of September 15, 1921. I take this opportunity of referring also to Dr. Van Hoesen's contribution in the *Papers and Proceedings* of the American Library Institute for the same year.

* Paper read before the A. L. A. Catalog Section round table at Saratoga Springs, July 3, 1924.

The more detailed exposition of what we are doing must be introduced by a few words indicating our special situation at Harvard as affecting cataloging; for methods used must vary in different institutions according to clientele and character of the library and the policies in view. Methods suitable for a large university library may not in all details be adapted to a college library or a public library, tho a study of selective methods should be useful to all.

The Harvard library is *not* concerned with the diffusion of books and reading among the whole population of its region as it would be were it a city library maintained by public funds, and our card catalog does not, therefore, have to provide for the needs of persons of all ages and every degree of culture, intelligence and intellectual experience. For convenience I may divide our public into three classes: the undergraduate, the specialist at work in his own field, and the student or scholar of any degree of experience who is for the moment touching unfamiliar ground. The undergraduate has his work mapped out for him. It is the duty of his teachers closely to supervise his reading, and they or the reference librarians should initiate him into the mysteries of using encyclopedias and bibliographies when preparing a thesis and teach him to select the best book on a topic. In common with other college libraries we offer to our students a reserved book collection to which they have immediate access. We have a special library of standard literature for browsing and cultural reading, and there are numerous well selected class-room libraries attached to the several departments of instruction. As for the card catalog we plan to facilitate in every way the prompt locating of a book, the existence of which is known, and in developing the subject headings we have tried to spare the student that hopeless feeling that comes to a person confronted with a tray full of cards and without proper subdivisions. We have tried, furthermore, by methods which I shall describe, to avoid confusing our students by the presence of useless or worse than useless titles. If a man wishes to consult a comprehensive life of Voltaire, why make him wade thru four inches of cards? Why not segregate the comprehensive works behind a special guide card, and then if there are too many titles for a speedy survey, eliminate the old and worthless?

The genuine student as he uses the library soon discovers that he is in touch with a vast storehouse of books, that our central building and the departmental libraries together contain to a greater degree than in most other libraries overwhelming quantities of books, pamphlets, and periodicals, good, bad, and indifferent, in all branches of knowledge. When the student is properly directed in his research, new paths open in every direction, and none of them leads to a point at which it can be said that there is nothing beyond. The beginner thus merges into the research worker, and to such comes speedy realization that the biggest and most detailed library catalog can never list his literature completely; he must comb the bibliographies; the books he consults point out new writers to study and allied subjects to be explored; a systematic survey must be undertaken of the books, periodicals, and pamphlets touching his study that are available in the stacks; and an eagle eye must be kept on current publications. In fact, each research student soon finds that he must compile his own catalog, and this catalog embraces not merely books in any one building or any one locality, but all discoverable books and even manuscripts wherever available. In addition to books and pamphlets he will list papers in journals and in society transactions, single chapters here and there, encyclopedia articles, and even extracts from newspapers that could never be normally listed in a library card catalog. Those who come in touch with alert and successful scholars know many who have in their fields compiled just such catalogs.

To facilitate research of this nature, Harvard like other American universities has at considerable administrative expense freely opened her book stacks to the properly accredited student. Those who have the privilege highly value this immediate access to the shelves of a large and carefully classified collection, and we frequently hear our students who return to us from abroad deplore the necessity in foreign libraries of approaching the books always thru the medium of the catalog. Now experience shows that the scholar who has immediate access to the shelves demands in his own field of study but little from the subject headings of our catalog. He does demand clear-cut, accurate, and easily found references to individual publications, but in a large library I believe all who have given any thought to the matter admit the impossibility with any reasonable expenditure of money of accumulating under a subject heading the titles of all publications concerning it.

We have characterized the work, first, of the

undergraduate and, second, of the specialist in his own field of study. A third class must be kept in mind in our work on the catalog. I have already alluded to him; he is the student who may or may not be an expert but who for the moment needs a book relating to a field of study more or less unfamiliar to him; a professor of Sanskrit for the moment interested in relativity, or the student of physics wishing to investigate Vedic philosophy. This person will turn to our subject headings for quick reference to a treatise on any desired topic. He might of course go first to encyclopedia or bibliography, draw up a list of desirable books, and then consult the author catalog to see if we have them, but we can spare him this double searching and save his time and steps by listing under our subject headings titles he may need.

Our survey of these three classes of persons frequenting a large university library has brought us to these conclusions: In developing the card catalog we must facilitate in every way the finding of a book whose existence is known to the student; it is well, furthermore, to bring together under the various subject headings certain titles that will be useful not only to the undergraduate but to any person, including the mature student, who is entering on an unfamiliar field. It is not necessary, however, and in a large library it is impossible, to list under a subject heading all the material desired by the advanced worker. In other words, our catalogs cannot serve as bibliographies, but are built up under the assumption that they are supplemented and often supplanted by the classified collection of books in the stacks freely open to those who are qualified to use them.

It is my purpose now to take up one by one certain rulings resulting from the conclusions thus outlined. Studying first the habits of the undergraduate, we discover that except for certain literary texts his reading is almost wholly confined to works in English. A little use is made of French, but his calls for books in German, Italian, and Spanish are few and confined almost wholly to assigned readings; there is practically no use of other languages than those I have enumerated, unless indeed in such a case as a group of students from China whose needs can be specially handled. Our first rule, framed for the undergraduate, is, then, to assign subject headings with freedom to books written in English, less freely to books in French, and with far less freedom to books in other languages. This rule, to be sure, will suit the needs of the undergraduate, but it will exclude many titles useful to the mature scholar to whom I have already referred, who is for the moment

touching an unfamiliar field. For his sake we expand the rule and allow subject headings with freedom when we are cataloging any useful book written in one of the ordinary European languages, as for instance a useful treatise in German on relativity. One other situation leads us to insert freely a book in a foreign language, and that is when it at the same time relates in subject matter to the country or people speaking the language in which it is written. Thus a Portuguese book on Lisbon may receive a subject card, but a Portuguese book on London would not, unless special considerations made one particularly desirable. Even an undergraduate studying Italian literature may make good use of an Italian essay on Ariosto, but is little likely to read a German essay on the same subject, while a student of German literature will be just as little likely to read an Italian essay on Schiller.

When it comes to the languages less frequently read, we make the subject heading the exception rather than the rule, for few of our students who wish to read Polish history, for example, will know Polish. We have, to take a concrete instance, a good collection of books in Russian and Polish, but it is only meagerly represented by subject cards. This field is fairly well provided with bibliographical aids. The collection is in major part kept in one section of the stacks and is well classified. It is being accumulated for the use of the research student, and because of the languages involved the number who can use it is limited. It consists of long sets of archives, studies of minute events of history, statistical and descriptive works, political pamphlets, treatises and texts in the field of theology and liturgy of the orthodox Greek church, and many similar works of the kind that go to form the baggage of a specialist in these subjects. The expense of recording these treatises under subject headings with Library of Congress fullness would be enormous, not only because of the language of the books, but because of the subjects involved. It is far better to put money into purchasing new books than into assigning subject headings. For a collection like this subject headings are limited to modern comprehensive treatises; to bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias and other works of reference, to periodicals and at times to certain books which would otherwise be hard to trace because of complicated and obscure author headings. The classifier is moreover always cordial towards biography, and he would not pass over richly illustrated books, for a history of modern Russian art replete with reproductions will be interesting even to those who cannot read the inscriptions on the plates.

As for pamphlets our "selective" rules follow the same principles as for books, but with a greater limitation all along the line. English pamphlets should normally have no more than one subject card, and while books in the better known languages may be given subject headings with fair freedom, pamphlets in these same languages should be so treated only when there is a really good and sufficient reason, and pamphlets in the lesser language ordinarily appear in the catalog only under their authors' names.

Our language rule as amended now reads: Assign subject headings freely to books in English, less freely to French, sparingly to German, Italian, Spanish and Latin, and only by exception to books in the little known languages. Furthermore, books in German, Italian and Spanish should with some freedom and in lesser languages may with a sparing hand be given subject headings when their subject matter relates immediately to the country speaking the language in which the book is written. Bibliographies, biographies, encyclopedias, dictionaries, periodicals and richly illustrated books are always candidates for subject headings without regard to language, if sufficiently "live," and the classifier is always invited to make an exception in favor of a book which appears particularly useful.

Still having in mind the needs of the undergraduate and the person working in an unfamiliar field we formulate another rule. It is a bit illogical, but it is practical, for it must be remembered that our classifiers cannot always be in a position to test for all subjects the comparative value of different treatises. We assume that the Library of Congress is keeping up a well-rounded collection and that theoretically it will have the really important treatises in all subjects. It is not too much to expect that it will take some pains to select all that are useful to the younger student, and our own library in turn will normally acquire the same books in fields within our scope. If, then, we are free in inserting Library of Congress cards of a certain type under subject headings, we shall automatically have a representative selection of books thus recorded. This rule of thumb is economical, for it presumably costs less to insert a subject card for a Library of Congress title than for one for which we must prepare our own card. The rule leads, of course, to inconsistencies, it may cause us to neglect a book or subject neglected by the Library of Congress and by intent or chance taking its place on our own shelves, or *per contra* it may lead to inserting lesser writings acquired in

regular course and cataloged by the Library of Congress; but as a whole the plan is good.

Next to the question of language the question of publication date arises. Do you not agree that the general headings in our card catalogs too frequently present to the reader a vast alphabetic mass of antiquated titles that serve only to conceal the up-to-date treatises? The reader who searches for a recent book on astronomy may, if he is of good courage, wade thru several inches of cards in selecting a book suited to his needs. Our cure is to wipe out the older titles from under these general headings. The person who needs the books thus eliminated will be led to them by the encyclopedias and by the comprehensive works, and when referred to Kepler or Pickering he will automatically turn to the author entries. As to lesser writers not referred to in encyclopedia or bibliography, are they not in their proper place on our shelves for the rare student who must have them? The titles under our general headings are, as a result, confined to live systematic treatises and certain other works, especially those of recent date, even tho they may be indefinite in character. The existence of a satisfactory bibliography will guide in determining what may safely be excluded.

Having thus considered the language of the book and its date of publication, we look at it also from the point of view of its technical character; for its claims to inclusion under a subject heading become less and less as it is less and less useful to the general student. It is true that a treatise which is comprehensive will be given the benefit of the doubt and assigned a subject card even tho it may be so highly technical in character that it is likely to be used but little by the ordinary person. Also, a comprehensive work may be included even tho written in a less known language; a comprehensive history in Russian of the literature of the Georgians in Asia would be useful under the proper heading; but a technical treatise on a special phase of some abstruse subject would not be represented by a subject card, for it would not be useful to the class of person who ordinarily depends on subject cards for guidance. An example of such an instance would be a treatise on the regeneration of the root tips of the genus Elodea. This ruling throws out from subject headings large classes of books and pamphlets like German doctoral dissertations, and thanks to it we are able at regularly recurring intervals to assure our Reference Department that the Catalog Department has sent along every last doctor's dissertation received. In spite of their absence from our subject headings these publications

are sufficiently accessible in view of their being filed in a classified stack and in view of the additional possibilities of discovering them listed in such publications as the annual list of German university publications, the *Bibliotheca Philologica Classica*, and other professional journals and indexes.

For books that are not too abstruse the rule holds that the more specific or minute the topic, the more tempted we are to assign it a subject heading; thus, minor biography, local history, legends, treatises on minor languages are receiving subject cards even tho they are not likely to be needed by the general student. This tendency is excusable on several grounds; a minute topic is easily hidden in the stack classification of a large library and may be less easily run down in bibliographies; again, such headings can ordinarily be assigned without great labor, and what may be done for five cents may be worth it but not worth a dollar; then too, under a very minute topic there is no danger of a confusing accumulation of cards. I presume that minor works in the historical, political and social sciences and literature are with us receiving subject cards more freely than mathematics and science. This may be due to the development of a library in which the subjects first mentioned play a preponderating rôle; in part because the subjects lend themselves more easily to subject headings, and even a classifier turns to paths of least resistance; but chiefly, I judge, because the fields of mathematics and pure science have been better covered by bibliographies and journals, and the work of the lesser writer in these fields is ordinarily less worthy of attention. An unknown eyewitness may contribute something of value in the study of history, and a man untrained in historic writing may give valuable sidelights on the life of a president with whom he has been associated from day to day, but the untrained scientist can have nothing to offer to the research worker in physics and astronomy.

The elimination of old editions under subject headings need not delay us, for I believe the practice is widespread of referring to the author's name for details regarding them.

The rulings for assignment of subject cards so far discussed contribute to the formation of a catalog well adapted to the person who is not a specialist, since they contribute to simplicity of form and to inclusion of essential recent titles, especially of books that are introductions to or give a general survey of a subject. I have tried to show moreover that the more advanced student does not suffer, for he normally gets at his material in other ways than from our subject headings, and will himself be

the first to admit that the expense of compiling a subject catalog that could satisfy him and at the same time every other research student would be too enormous to be a possibility.

One thing at least we can and should do for the specialist. We should acquire and list all possible bibliographies, periodicals, and reference works. The knowledge of the existence of a treatise or article is one step in the direction of having it in hand, and an exact reference to where it may be found is a much longer stride. The Harvard catalog should be improved in this respect. In the large library centres today there is an ever growing possibility that any title cited in a bibliography may be found close at hand, and judging by the number of union lists in progress, the possibility is growing of locating it elsewhere.

Now that I have outlined our rules for what is being named "selective cataloging," a word or two should be said regarding their effectiveness in lessening the cost of our work. You who are practical workers in large libraries realize how frequently it happens that the shelf classification of a book is not difficult, while the assignment of subject headings for the same book is a time-consuming process. This is especially true of books in lesser known languages, of subjects no longer live, or of technical pamphlets on abstruse subjects; you are also familiar with those books, the despair of catalogers, that are almost impossible to classify because their authors either do not know what they want to say, or else do not know how to say it. The elimination of the time spent in debating and investigating books of this character will, you must agree, contribute materially to lowering the cost of our work, and our experience would indicate that, for us, this gain in economy is not offset by any serious loss of usefulness to our Library. I presume that libraries exist whose conditions are such as to make necessary exhaustive and complete catalogs, and it is to be hoped their appropriations for cataloging will continue to be large enough to accomplish their aims; but it certainly is the duty of each head cataloger to assure himself that the money is being well spent before he commits his staff to long discussions on out-of-date and worthless literature and on books that can be seldom used because written in little known tongues, and every cataloger should think twice before he allows such titles to cumber his catalog trays and hide the titles really worth while.

This question of high costs brings up one more phase of selective cataloging which I must touch on before closing. So far I have discussed

only subject headings. Is selective cataloging ever excusable as applied to entire omission of catalog entry?

The necessity of accurate and clearly arranged author headings to ensure prompt tracing of essential books is axiomatic. We agree that every monograph should be recorded properly under its author. How about monographs issued as parts of series? Where is the boundary between monographs of this nature that must be recorded and the paper published in a society's proceedings? We must stop somewhere from sheer lack of funds. Then there is the pamphlet. Theoretically each pamphlet must have its author record, but is it not better to make available on the shelves in chronological order six thousand tracts covering the 17th century of English history and postpone even author entries than to lock them in your uncataloged reserve until the necessary five hundred (or is it fifteen hundred) dollars are forthcoming to catalog them? May not librarians who have in custody huge collections of contemporary and ephemeral matter be forced more and more to adopt methods by which the material is, so to speak, self-cataloged? Examples of self-cataloging methods in our building are the English Civil War pamphlets alluded to, collections of South American political pamphlets, courses of study, rules and regulations and leaflets in our Education collection, a file of 50,000 songs, and the vast files of railroad material in the library of our Business School. Verily, selective cataloging is already with us, not only as applied to omission of subject cards, but also as regards entire omission.

Permit me to sum up in a few phrases what I have tried to show you. The Harvard method of selective cataloging distinguishes between the needs of two definite classes: on the one hand the undergraduate, with whom may be classed any person working in an unfamiliar field, and on the other hand the research man working in his own field and trained in ways of obtaining his materials. For the former it hopes to offer all that he needs, and to offer this to him in a way that is both concise and accessible. As to the latter, experience shows that he will not depend on the subject headings in the catalog. As practically worked out, the method results in free omission of subject headings for books in foreign languages, for out-of-date books, for obsolete editions, and for technical treatises on abstruse subjects; it inclines towards recording under the correct subject headings comprehensive treatises, books of general interest, and live material on clearly defined and especially on minute topics.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

TWICE-A-MONTH

AUGUST, 1924



WHAT people are reading is a subject of universal interest to readers as well as librarians—not to speak of publishers and booksellers. Mr. Dana has more than once brought the library profession to face the fact that books supply only a small proportion of the pabulum of readers, and now Mr. Chase owns up that the people of the Hub—where the *Atlantic Monthly* still continues the literary tradition that here is the central orb of literary radiance to which New York, Philadelphia, Indianapolis and other author-cities are but satellites—read other yellow-covered literature and all sorts and conditions of printed stuff in immensely larger proportion than books. Mr. Ferguson in turn confesses that the Pacific coast does not greatly differ from the Atlantic in its reading, and "so there you are, Mr. Hennessy," as Mr. Dooley observes! Add to these confessions the fact that only one book a year per capita of our population is produced by our prolific publishers and you have the situation which confronts both librarians and the producers of real books. All this is a challenge which must be met by increased efforts on the part of all who have to do with the production and circulation of books in behalf of "the best reading for the most people at the least cost," to cite the slogan of the A. L. A., difficult tho it be to match the five-cents'-worth of Philadelphia's pervasive periodical.

NOT the least of the problems of bigness which confront the librarian is that of the card catalog, and it is scarcely matter of wonder that at Brussels the huge Répertoire of the Institut Internationale with eleven million cards seemed to the authorities of the Palais Mondiale too much like the camel who put his head into the tent and finally occupied it entirely. The catalog of the Library of Congress, quite aside from the huge stock of printed duplicates for use thruout the library system, and the catalog room of the New York Public Library are already terrific examples of the physical demands of the card catalog upon library space. With the growth of analytics and other cards which duplicate to the *n*th power the original entry, most of them necessary and all of them valuable, the physical content—and

the administrative discontent—increase, and the solution is hard to find. Harvard University, facing also the interest of readers, as Mr. Currier's epochal paper points out, adopts the solution of reducing subject entries in certain classes and especially on pamphlets and bringing such material together on the shelves in such shape as to make it easy for exploration by the research student. The suggestion would certainly make Dr. Poole turn over in his grave, for it was he who preached in season and out of season the sacredness of pamphlets, which are sometimes more valuable than the big, big book. But we must face the fact that the condensed or selective catalog which includes the more important pamphlets as well as books and leaves the dead and minor books as well as the bulk of the pamphlets on the sepulchral shelves of President Eliot's library mausoleum, even without tombstones in the catalog, seems to offer the one possible way out from an ever-increasing difficulty.

THE Trustees' Section meetings at Saratoga were noteworthy, as were those at the Arkansas conference in 1923, both for increased attendance and increasing evidence of the practical and proper interests of trustees in library administration. Judge Porter of Cincinnati, the pioneer leader of this section, who was present with the Cincinnati trustees on the lookout for a future librarian of their growing system, and Mrs. Earl, another banner bearer, found a vigorous and enthusiastic associate in the advent of Alfred D. Mason of Memphis, who came to the front at the 1923 meeting and is now chairman of the section. The topics were practical and the discussions to the point, and in opening the session, Judge Zwick of St. Joseph, Mo., made a capital presentation of the topic of business methods and efficiency from the trustee's point of view, which was heartily endorsed, tho his position that the public library should be under charge of the school authorities was, most naturally, challenged. The growth of this section is especially welcome because from among trustees, a large proportion of the new strength of the future A. L. A. should be recruited, and it was proposed that the section should take an active part in such recruiting.

THE presentation at Saratoga by members of the A. L. A. of a loving cup to Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Carr, the second of these pleasant tokens of appreciative friendships within the library profession, was a worthy tribute to the pair whose union was one of the early results of "propinquity" and intimacy ripening into marriage which set happy example to later comers. Several weddings have occurred within the A. L. A., but too often with the result of secluding the feminine partner from active library service and from continuing participation in library friendships. Miss Edith Wallbridge, whom Mr. Carr first met as he strayed into a library conference, is entitled to the credit of bringing into library service one of the most active and loyal of librarians whose activities continue into his eighth decade, and since their marriage she has

been scarcely less faithful than he in attendance at conferences. Mr. and Mrs. Carr in fact lead the honor roll in conference attendance, he with 39 and she with 35 meetings. Mr. Carr did self-sacrificing service as treasurer of the A. L. A. from 1886 thru 1893 and was secretary from 1898 thru 1900, and was honored with the presidency in 1900-01. Mrs. Carr has remained on duty as the statistician of the A. L. A. and can instantly tell all the veterans whom she has organized into a dinner table veterans' association just how many conferences each has attended, and, tho her age does not justify the epithet, she has been dubbed the "great-grandmother of the A. L. A." Long may both live, not only thru 1926, but to enjoy a golden wedding in a semi-centennial of their own.

LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS

Executive Board

THREE meetings of the Executive Board were held during the Saratoga Springs conference. The board approved a lease on additional space in the John Crerar Library Building for the use of A. L. A. Headquarters. It accepted with gratitude gifts from the Carnegie Corporation of New York amounting to \$134,100, and divided as follows: For six months in 1924, for the Temporary Library Training Board, \$2,000; for the Survey, \$7,500; for study of libraries and adult education, \$6,000; for a general editor and proof-reader, \$3,000; for A. L. A. Headquarters, \$7,500. From one year beginning Oct. 1, 1924: Library Training Board, \$26,100; Survey, \$15,000; study of libraries and adult education, \$12,000; textbooks, \$10,000; reading courses, \$9,000; revolving fund for publications, \$15,000; general editor and a proof-reader, \$6,000; A. L. A. Headquarters, \$15,000. The Board also accepted \$10,000 from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial for the purchase of American books for Europe, and a grant of \$5,000 for one year from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace for the purchase of books for foreign libraries on public and international law. The treasurer was authorized to invest surplus funds on the advice of the bank in which the funds are deposited and with the approval of the chairman of the Finance Committee.

Among various editorial matters disposed of were the authorization of the secretary to employ an editor for the A. L. A. Catalog of 1926 and an assistant; authorization of the publication in August of a special number of the

A. L. A. *Bulletin*; and approval of the publication of the Children's Librarians' Section "Exhibit List," "County Libraries," by Harriet C. Long, and "Experiments in Popular Education," by Ethel Cleland. The new Editorial Committee appointed at this conference held one meeting at which special attention was given to the selection of authors for textbooks on "Library Administration" and "The American Public Library Movement."

Most of the committees for the ensuing year were appointed. Announcement will be made as soon as acceptances are received. Anne M. Mulheron, of Portland, Ore., was elected a member of the Board to fill the unexpired term created by the election of H. H. B. Meyer to the presidency. The personnel of the Commission of Library and Adult Education was given in the July LIBRARY JOURNAL. The members of the new Editorial Committee are George B. Utley, chairman, Ernest J. Reece, Mary U. Rothrock, Frank K. Walter, and Joseph L. Wheeler. The Board of Education for Librarianship comprises H. W. Craver, Andrew Keogh, Elizabeth M. Smith, Adam Strohm, and Malcolm G. Wyer. Lloyd W. Josselyn is the chairman of the Committee of Relations Between Libraries and Moving Pictures, the committee also including Louise Connolly, Marilla W. Freeman, J. C. M. Hanson, and J. R. Patterson. Miss Freeman was reappointed the Association's representative on the Committee on Public Relations of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc. The Finance Committee: Carl B. Roden, chairman, Helen A. Bagley, and H. W. Craver.

The President was authorized to give appropriate credentials to Mary Eileen Aherne, George H. Locke, and W. W. Bishop as representatives of the A. L. A. to the British Library Association meeting in Glasgow, September 8-13. The President was asked to confer with the Committee on Library Co-operation with the Hispanic Peoples regarding the proposed representation of the A. L. A. at the Third Pan-American Scientific Congress to be held in Lima, December 20, 1924. The President and Secretary were instructed to investigate the possibilities of cities and resorts on the Pacific Coast, especially in the Northwest, as possible meeting places for 1925.

The following statement was incorporated in the minutes as expressing the sense of this meeting, but not formally adopted as a resolution:

Whereas, Regional meetings of the American Library Association have been authorized by Section 22 of the By-Laws of the Association,

And Whereas, It seems desirable to announce under what conditions the Executive Board will arrange for such meetings and what part the Association itself will take in them,

Resolved, That in general the Board will arrange for regional meetings only in case of a formal request from three or more neighboring state library associations. In regions where there are no active library associations, or where it appears that members of the American Library Association desire a meeting independently of the action of state organizations, the Executive Board may arrange for these independently. It will be expected that the Associations that apply for a regional meeting will pay the expenses of a representative of the Association to be designated by the Board, and that this representative shall be given a place upon the formal program.

A. L. A. Sections Agricultural Libraries Section

THE Agricultural Libraries Section held its session the morning of July 2, with H. O. Severance, librarian of the University of Missouri, presiding. There were about thirty in attendance.

The first paper on the program, "The International Institute of Agriculture and its Publications," was read by Emma B. Hawks, assistant librarian of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Miss Hawks opened her paper with an interesting account of the life of David Lubin, mentioning instances of "the determination and persistence" with which he had labored over a period of years, from 1896 to 1905, for the founding of the International Institute of Agriculture. The establishment of the Institute in Rome was finally assured by the hearty support of the King of Italy, Victor Emanuel.

Miss Hawks discussed the publications in four groups as represented by the four bureaus into which the activities of the Institute are divided. —The Bureau of General Statistics, The Bureau of Agricultural Science, The Bureau of Economics and Social Intelligence, and the Bureau of the General Secretariat. It is the work of the first mentioned service which is considered of the greatest importance by the United States and Great Britain. She also explained the manner in which the publications were distributed. The Library connected with the Institute was next pictured.

Charles H. Brown, leading the discussion, spoke of the main value of the Institute as being its study of remote causes and showed how the prosperity of the farmer depends on them. He then read illuminating selections from the Life of David Lubin by Mme. Agresti.

The last speaker on the program, W. W. Ellis, librarian of the College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y., gave a paper on inter-library loan of agricultural material.

Mr. Ellis stated that the subject as presented to him was divided into two parts, (1) Possible duplication in the work of the agricultural colleges and that of the State library commissions and other agencies organized for the purpose of circulating books in the State; (2) Location of material wanted in libraries other than that of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Mr. Severance then brought to the attention of the Section the situation regarding the *Agricultural Index* and asked H. W. Wilson to explain it. Mr. Wilson stated that altho the question of the financial support of the index had come up three years ago and an increase of subscription price had been effected at that time, it had not proved sufficient. The expenses had been \$4,500 more than the income during the past ten years. In order to continue the index on its present footing an advance of 30 or 40 per cent on the subscription price will be necessary. In any event, he said he would finish out the current year and publish the 3-year cumulation. He did not think that reduction of the number of titles indexed would meet the situation as that would also reduce the income.

The consensus of opinion appeared to be that actually to give up the Index was "unthinkable." A committee of three was appointed to take up the matter.

The Union list of periodicals was then discussed. Mr. Green of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, spoke of his desire to have bulletins of the agricultural experiment stations included and gave as an advantage the opportunity he would then have to complete his own files. Mr. Wilson then spoke, presenting some

of his difficulties in connection with the Union list, one of which was bulk, and asked for opinions on certain methods. Miss Gericke requested an expression of opinion as to whether there was a call for a cumulated index of the *Experiment Station Record* and was answered in the affirmative. She then asked if there was any demand for a resumption of the cards cataloging the material published by the various agricultural experiment stations. The reply was again in the affirmative, but a suggestion was made that the printing be on the standard size card and that no classed arrangement be given. Miss Gericke replied that if they were resumed the Section would first be consulted as to its desires.

Marv G. Lacy, librarian of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, was elected chairman, and Corabel Bien, assistant chief of the Periodical division, secretary.

CORABEL BIEN, *Acting Secretary.*

Catalog Section

THE Catalog Section held three meetings at the Saratoga Springs A. L. A. Conference, one general session and two round table meetings.

The general session convened July 1st and was presided over by the chairman, Sophie K. Hiss of the Cleveland Public Library. At this meeting Charles Martel of the Library of Congress, reporting for the Committee on the Promotion of Printed Cards in Europe, stated that the Library of Congress is selling cards to a few libraries in Europe. Cards are used to answer bibliographical inquiries, and exhibition catalogs are sent when desired. Conditions at present, however, do not favor extending the sale or exchange of cards abroad. It was urged that American libraries support European undertakings in bibliographical and card catalog work.

Franklin F. Hopper of the New York Public Library, chairman of the Committee on the Index to Song Collections, told of the progress made with this index. It is to be published by the H. W. Wilson Company in the Standard Catalog Series and is intended to do for song collections what Granger's Index does for poetry and recitations. It is to include American and English titles of collections in print, with a few notable exceptions of out-of-print ones. The limit set at 150 titles may be increased. Three classes of collections are to be omitted: Hymn books; Collections of individual composers; Folk-dances and singing games and most collections of children's songs.

The report of the Secretary on the activities

of the regional groups showed an increasing interest and a growing organization. The Boston, Chicago, New York, Ohio Valley, Twin City (St. Paul and Minneapolis) and Western Reserve Groups are well organized with officers elected for the coming year. Buffalo and Washington are laying plans for an organization meeting in the early fall.

Two formal papers completed the program of this meeting. Eunice Wead of the University of Michigan Library under the title "Imaginary Voyages" introduced her audience to tales of voyagers in unknown lands from English narratives of the 17th and 18th centuries. The authors of these imaginary voyages were less well known than More, who gave us Utopia, and Swift, who has entertained us with "Gulliver's Travels." Interesting bibliographical information was given regarding editions of Robinson Crusoe and other works of which Robinson Crusoe was the prototype.

Paul North Rice of the New York Public Library discussed the topic, "The Cost of Cataloging." He said, "The problem of cataloging costs must be attacked by catalogers themselves or it will be attacked by executives less able to judge fairly as to what should be modified or eliminated." The weakness of the cataloging test in Mr. Josephson's report of 1916 at the first Asbury Park Conference was shown. The following suggestions were passed on to a committee to be appointed to draw up a plan for a cost investigation, this Committee to represent different types of libraries:

(1) That a uniform system of cataloging statistics be established; (2) That relative costs of different steps in the process of cataloging 100 average books be ascertained according to the Josephson plan or a similar one; (3) That records be kept in the testing libraries of items cataloged and the proportion of time devoted to new work; (4) That the proportion of salary pay roll for this work be estimated; (5) That the result of the cost of the entire output be divided by the number of pieces to get a true average cost, this result divided in turn by the average cost of 100 books to be used as a factor to multiply the average stop watch figure for each step in the process. (6) That the results from libraries of about the same size and with similar collections and use be compared.

The two round table meetings were held simultaneously on July 3d. Linn R. Blanchard of Princeton University Library arranged for and conducted the round table for catalogers of large libraries. The subject assigned for discussion was "Selective Cataloging." In selective cataloging all books and pamphlets

are not cataloged with uniform degree of completeness but each in proportion to its value to the particular library. Dr. T. Franklin Currier of Harvard College gave the major paper, printed in this issue of the LIBRARY JOURNAL. The following persons discussed his paper and gave local practices in selective cataloging: Eliza Lamb, University of Chicago; Margaret Mann, Engineering Societies Library, New York; Anna M. Monrad, Yale University; Harriet B. Prescott, Columbia University; Ruth Rosholt, Minneapolis Public Library (read by Eunice Wead); Henry B. Van Hoesen, Princeton University. The tendency to selective cataloging seems to have developed to greater extent in university libraries than in public libraries. These papers are on file in complete form with the secretary of the Section and may be borrowed for study upon request.

Frances Fairbanks of the Hercules Powder Company of Wilmington, Delaware, representing the Committee on Methods of the Special Libraries Association, told of two projects it intends to launch soon. A bibliography of classifications in print is to be compiled and one of all current library articles on the organization of library material is to be started.

Isabella K. Rhodes of the New York State Library School conducted the round table for catalogers in small libraries. A paper was first read on the use of the unit card, by Winifred Wennerstrum, of the Indiana Public Library Commission.

The organization of the small catalog department was discussed by Caroline Whittemore, of Brookline, Mass. In the organization of a small library the cataloger should be relieved of the mechanical processes if economy and efficiency are to be observed. Student helpers at 35 cents an hour do a great deal of the cataloging work in a small college under the supervision of the librarian. Apprentice help is available in some libraries for this purpose. In some school libraries students taking commercial courses do typing for the cataloger.

Minnie E. Sears of the H. W. Wilson Company, discussing subject headings for small libraries, said that the subject heading work is more important in a small library than in a large one, for the latter has many printed bibliographies, supplementing its catalog, while the small library must depend upon its own catalog almost wholly.

Pitfalls in the use of L. C. printed cards were disclosed by Zana K. Miller, Library Bureau, New York City. The worst pitfall seems

to be the L. C. headings printed on the cards, which are intended for a very large library. From letters received in reply to Miss Miller's inquiry as to whether or not L. C. printed cards could be used to advantage in libraries under 20,000 volumes, seventeen persons felt that they do not present sufficient snags to make their use difficult. Some twenty-four librarians, on the contrary, think their use either questionable, or an actual disadvantage. L. C. cards should be used in a small library under the supervision of an experienced person with discrimination and judgment.

The officers elected for the coming year are Philip S. Goulding, Library of the University of California, Southern Branch, Los Angeles, California, chairman; Florence M. Freeman, Public Library, Long Branch, California, secretary.

BERTHA M. SCHNEIDER, *Secretary.*

Children's Librarians' Section

THE first session of the Children's Librarians' Section was held Tuesday morning, July 1, with Lillian Smith, the chairman, presiding. The general topic of the morning's discussion was "Values in Directing the Reading of Children." Elizabeth B. Wisdom, of the Bedford Branch, Brooklyn (N. Y.) Public Library, presented the first paper entitled "The Development of Good Taste in Little Children's Reading." She emphasized the importance of giving to very young children beautifully illustrated books in order to counteract the harmful effect of the comic sections in the newspapers, and the moving pictures. Enid Endicott, of the Boys' and Girls' House, Toronto Public Library, followed with "Sequences in Girls' Reading," illustrating her points with extracts from those books which had proved useful in her work with girls.

"They Who Get Slapped" was the title of the paper by Louise P. Latimer, director of children's work in the Washington (D. C.) Public Library, which appeared in the July LIBRARY JOURNAL. She defended vigorously the profession against the criticism that children's librarians were incapable of passing judgment on books for children, especially boys' books. In conclusion she pointed out the fact that the works of Charles Boardman Hawes set a high standard in children's books, and were highly recommended by children's librarians.

Miss Smith then said: "The Mutineers," "The Great Quest," "The Dark Frigate," mentioned by Miss Latimer, reach the highest standards attained by any adventure book in recent years. Children's librarians know that if a boy or girl makes such books a part of his adventures at a

time when book adventures are more real than the life he actually lives, there is little danger that the inferior or mediocre will have a place in his later reading. As a sign and symbol of the distinction to which the books of Charles Boardman Hawes have attained, the Children's Librarians' Section has awarded the John Newbery medal to 'The Dark Frigate.' It is a great pleasure that Mrs. Charles Boardman Hawes has come in person to receive the medal from her husband."

The second session was held Wednesday evening, July 2, with Lillian Smith in the chair. The general subject was "Library Work in Its Larger Outlook." John Adams Lowe, of the Brooklyn Public Library, gave a very valuable and entertaining talk on "Fathers and Children's Librarians." He brought out the fact that fathers were seldom even considered regarding the reading of their children, yet they were vitally interested in the subject. Their ignorance, which was very striking, could be helped by friendly suggestions from the children's librarians.

Walter Prichard Eaton gave a most inspiring talk on "The Boy and the Book." He spoke of the power of books on the mind of the child, giving as examples the two or three books which had impressed him as a child, and left an impression which had an enormous effect on his adult thinking.

The outstanding feature of the Conference this year was the room set apart at the Grand Union Hotel as headquarters for the Section. The model exhibit of books, donated by the publishers, from the list prepared by Miss Power, was most attractively displayed on the shelves loaned by the Library Bureau. Posters, photographs, and reading lists, from children's departments throughout the country, were exhibited, and the place had a real children's room atmosphere. The room served a double purpose, in providing a source of new ideas for the coming year's work, and a *rendezvous* for children's librarians. There was always a librarian in charge of the exhibit to answer questions, and to distribute the mimeographed copies of Miss Power's list. It is hoped to put this excellent selection in more permanent form in the fall, for the benefit of those who were unable to be present at the Conference.

Out of a total membership of 262, 81 children's librarians were present at the Conference, 31 of whom were new members who joined the Section during the week.

The following officers were elected for the year 1924-25: Chairman, Mary Wilkinson, Hackley Library, Muskegon, Mich.; vice-chairman, Annabel Porter (Wash.) Public Library;

secretary, Helen Martin, East Cleveland (O.) Public Library; treasurer, M. Ethel Bubb, Washington (D. C.) Public Library.

HELEN MARTIN, *Secretary.*

College and Reference Section

AS the first session a general business meeting was held July 1st with 240 in attendance. The chairman, E. D. Tweedell, presided.

Andrew Keogh, chairman, presented the report of the Committee on the Educational Qualifications and Status of the Professional Librarian in Colleges and Universities. His statement was a summary of the report which is soon to be published with the tabulated returns of the answers to questionnaires received from 79 institutions and 350 individuals. The variations found are well shown by the returns to questions on the education and training of head librarians. Of 75 head librarians all but two have some form of college education; of 75 head librarians 17 have had at least one year of library school work; and of 75 head librarians 21 have the degree of B.L.S.

There was considerable comment on the report, chiefly in the form of commendation of the Committee for its valuable service. Messrs. Van Hoesen, Severance, Keogh, Koopman and Andrews joined in the discussion, the chief matters touched upon being those of academic vacations in order to permit of librarians' having same opportunity for advancement professionally as teachers in the same institutions, the proper ranking of the various library positions, and the time which must elapse before the recommendations of the Committee will be generally accepted in the academic world. It was voted that the report of the Committee be accepted with the amendment that the resolution in regard to the graduate school of librarianship be changed so as to conform with the action of the Council in its decision to establish a Permanent Library Training Board. It was also voted that the Section express its cordial thanks to the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the subsidy making it possible for the Section to prepare and publish the report which had just been presented.

Henry B. Van Hoesen's paper "Undergraduate and Graduate Instruction in the Use of the Library," was a good *résumé* of what has so far been done in this field as well as a statement of what should be done in the future if such instruction is to accomplish its purpose. The lack of any uniform method of presentation and the crowded condition of the curriculum were well shown, and some of the more important papers on the subject were cited.

At the same time as the college and univer-

sity library buildings round table a meeting for the discussion of the problems of the reference librarian in the public library was held with a total attendance of about 135. E. D. Tweedell of the John Crerar Library presided.

The first topic, "Publicity for the Reference Department," was introduced by Ethel F. McCollough, of Evansville. The methods of approach to various groups were discussed. A trained school librarian visited all the schools and talked with the teachers and pupils on the resources of the library. In the evening schools a table with new books and magazines was placed near the registration desk and a member of the library staff was there to give information. A Citizens Committee made up of key people in a community makes a fine starting point for any extension of library activity. A very effective piece of publicity was a dinner tendered by the Kiwanis Club to 42 members of the library staff and the club members. The staff were attired in their "best working clothes" and each department head told of her work. A classified mailing list of patrons, newspaper publicity, Chamber of Commerce bulletins are all successful methods.

Miss Farquhar, of Chicago, discussed linking up the central reference department with branches and stations, and Lucretia Vaile, of Denver, organization and management of reference departments having more than one division.

Isadore G. Mudge, of Columbia University, discussed "Old, New and Needed Reference Books." She told of certain experiences where the older editions of a dictionary were needed. In some of the earlier editions of the Britannica some of the biographical articles are longer and the bibliographical information is fuller. A needed reference book is a "librarians' quotation book," which could be readily compiled from the reference librarians' file of difficult questions. Others needed are an American history atlas, a reliable dictionary of American place-names, and also of Americanisms. Miss Mudge spoke of the projected Dictionary of American Biography comparable to the "Dictionary of National Biography." Funds are available which will make the publication feasible, and the meeting voted that thru the Board of Management the services of the section be tendered the committee on publication.

Frank H. Chase, of Boston, spoke on the "Reference Librarian's Reading," but owing to the lateness of the hour he mentioned only *Time*, which he recommended as a means by which the reference librarian might keep well informed.

The other round table under the leadership of Charles H. Brown consisted of papers on the problems of university library buildings and departmental collections, about 60 people being in attendance.

Dr. Andrews' paper urged strongly the more general centralization of university libraries in buildings suitable to the purpose and stated that 2,000 volumes seemed to be the figure at which departmental collections became ineffective. The matter of stacks was discussed in detail by Frank K. Walter who gave the result of his experiences and observations in the erection of the new library building at the University of Minnesota. Mr. Manchester's paper on "Arrangement of Workrooms and Relation to Other Sections of Library Building" was read by M. G. Wyer, but no discussion was possible owing to the lateness of the hour. Dr. Koch's paper on "Relative Location and Sizes of Various Rooms in Library Buildings" was also omitted.

The last general session, that on Saturday morning, July 5th, was a joint session with this Section and the Special Libraries Association.

Officers elected for the coming year were: Edith M. Coulter, chairman; James A. McMillen, secretary-treasurer.

JAMES A. McMILLEN, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

Lending Section

THE Lending section held its first session on the evening of July 2nd, Pearl I. Field of the Chicago Public Library, chairman, presiding.

Dorothy Dillon of Chicago opened the program with a spirited paper entitled "The Lending Assistant Looks at Her World." From this vantage point she surveyed the duties, difficulties and privileges of the loan desk assistant with enthusiasm and a fine conception of service which would overcome most obstacles.

The question of "Keeping the Staff Informed" was discussed by William Webb of the Detroit Public Library.

"The Lending Assistant's Reading" was discussed by Louise Prouty, vice-librarian of Cleveland (O.) Public Library, who defined the lending assistant as one who has passed entrance tests, training class and practice work, but who does not occupy an executive position nor perhaps ever will, but nevertheless is responsible because the public thinks the "librarian knows books." How this young person shall carry on and make good is a very definite problem in adult education. Miss Prouty suggested the general staff meeting, assigned reading, and book talks by department heads or outsiders. Extra copies of reviews and literary publications should be provided

for the staff to be passed in rotation or kept in an accessible rack. Some libraries allow members of the staff to take new books out over night or over Sunday before they leave the catalog department; others buy an extra staff copy of the most popular books which is later added to the collection, while in some of the large libraries a staff library is maintained for the use of staff members.

Mr. Bostwick spoke briefly on "Inter-Library Registration" advocating the honoring of each other's cards by all libraries, so that a person temporarily in another city may have his card honored wherever he may be. He said, "St. Louis will honor any other city library card; it is seldom necessary, but when occasion offers, we do so."

The second session on Thursday afternoon was one of the literary treats of the conference, when four papers of unusual interest were presented.

In her paper "Literary Introductions," Mary K. Reely was the ideal literary hostess, presenting most delightfully examples of informal literary introductions to many types of books. She said the average reader is sadly in need of a wider literary acquaintanceship. His reading is too circumscribed, is too often confined to one type of book; it offers no breadth, no vision, no growth. For such a person we need a system of literary introductions to widen his acquaintanceship with books and with ideas and to open the way to new interests. Miss Reely's paper is the leading article in the *Publishers' Weekly* for August 2.

In his paper on "The Romance of Rarity; or stories of some famous first editions," W. N. C. Carlton told of the first editions of Gray's "Elegy," Burns' Poems, Shelley's "Queen Mab," and "Pickwick Papers," and the stories lost none of their romance and charm thru his vivid presentation.

"New Fads in Reading" were entertainingly presented by Emily V. D. Miller of the *Booklist*, who said:

"The absolutely new fad of our day is the fad of the new psychology. . . . The idea that by taking thought an intellectual pygmy can make a giant of himself is the grand contribution of the twentieth century to the history of quacks. Biographies have become a lasting fashion, because a breath of fresh air has blown away the musty old conventions of biography."

Paul M. Paine in his talk on "Outwitting the Best Seller," said, "When guidance in reading becomes one of the main purposes in public libraries, there will be a less urgent demand for the newest and most popular book simply because it is new and popular. It was with the

purpose of exercising an influence in favor of stories for adults that are interesting as well as true and wholesome that we started some years ago in Syracuse to bring together in one place the superior books of American fiction from Cooper's time to the present and printed the so-called "Gold Star List," revised each year."

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Sarah Virginia Lewis, superintendent of circulation, Seattle (Wash.) Public Library; vice-chairman, Charlotte Templeton, librarian, Greenville, S. C.; secretary, Margery Doud, librarian, Carondelet Branch, St. Louis (Mo.) Public Library.

JANE P. HUBBELL, *Secretary*.

Professional Training Section

A NEW plan was tried this year in the Professional Training Section. At the first meeting of the section the papers were read, but all discussion was deferred until the second meeting. This plan worked out very well, and the second day's meeting was well attended and the discussion was both lively and informing.

W. O. Carson broadened the outlook of his audience by an informing survey of what Canada is doing in the training of junior library assistants. Mr. Carson speaks with authority, since four-fifths of Canadian libraries are in his own province of Ontario and the only school is that conducted by the Department of Education.

The question of what the employer has a right to expect from the library school graduate was answered by Matthew S. Dudgeon, of Milwaukee. Not a finished worker, he believes, but promising material. It is the province of the library school to sift out the fit from the unfit, and the duty of the employer to fit the library school graduate to a suitable position.

The subject of summer school credits in library school was surveyed by Phineas L. Windsor, of the University of Illinois Library School. He found that only five schools were giving credit for summer library school work. Granting that for economic or pedagogic reasons it might be desirable, he felt that even with proper safeguards as to entrance requirements and the conditions of the course, this policy would be feasible for general acceptance only after rearrangement of summer courses. Elva L. Bascom, of the University of Texas, cited personal experience in a section of the country where heat is an important factor, interfering with summer work of a grade that would make credits possible in the library school.

With the present status of the entrance requirements of the library schools as her topic, Florence R. Curtis, of Drexel Institute, enumer-

ated as factors to be considered the student, the content of the several courses and methods of instruction as affected by the age and previous training of the student, the number of recruits available and the number of positions to be filled. Another factor of importance in schools connected with educational institutions is the question of uniform prerequisites.

The mention of intelligence tests in entrance requirements brought out a lively discussion, but the promising they were judged not sufficiently worked out for adoption at present.

The analysis presented by Charles H. Compton, of St. Louis, in a comparison of qualifications, training, demand and remuneration of the library profession with social work, was too detailed for brief quotation, but valuable to both of the professions that have developed so many points in common.

Marie A. Newberry, chairman of the Committee on Standards of Training Classes, presented the carefully worked out report of this committee. It was voted to make the findings of this committee available to the Permanent Training Board.

LOUISE PROUTY, *Secretary.*

School Libraries Section

SCHOOL libraries had a large share in the program of the conference this year. Adeline B. Zachert, director of School Libraries for Pennsylvania, planned the programs and presided at most of the meetings.

During the discussion at the Elementary Round Table the following points were brought out: Books may be loaned to the older children for home reading from the classroom library; books are not loaned to parochial schools; there is no definite proportion between fiction and non-fiction in the collections. Suggestions were offered for the use of school libraries in the summer time, such as loans to summer camps for boy scouts, and other groups, while in some cities the libraries are open for the use of the summer school students. Miss Power of Cleveland stated that the library room in their elementary school becomes a general reading room for children after school hours. Anna Kennedy told of an interesting idea for use with high school students. Each student prepares a book called the "Hall of Fame," using reference books from the library and entering material from various sources to make this book. A most interesting project was explained by Miss Lovis, which she had worked out with a civics class, holding them responsible for the return to the library of all lost or strayed books. The use of posters, slogans, and formal search warrants

made the work more real to them. A rising greeting was given Caroline Hewins of Hartford, Connecticut, as she rose to speak informally.

At the Normal School session Sadie Kent, librarian of Southeast Missouri State Teachers' College, Cape Girardeau, presented the topic "The Normal School as a Promoter of School Library Service." Janet Hileman, librarian of State Normal School, Clarion, Pennsylvania, described in detail the service of sending traveling libraries from the Normal Schools of Pennsylvania to the small rural schools in their neighborhood. Ethel Herron, children's librarian of the Newark Public Library, New Jersey, is a graduate of the Geneseo State Normal School and was therefore qualified to speak convincingly on the value of the children's library in a normal school. The planning of the room and the furnishing and equipping of this beautiful library was the work of the teacher-librarian class. Miss Ganser, librarian of the State Normal School, Millersville, Pennsylvania, discussed very ably the essentials in the instruction of the use of books and libraries. Copies of the outline used in the Pennsylvania Normal School were distributed.

Those present were especially appreciative of Mary Richardson's efforts to present her paper in person. Miss Richardson could be spared from her important work of conducting a summer training school for teacher-librarians just long enough to make the long trip from the Genesee State Normal School to Saratoga Springs, present her paper and return immediately to her work. It was the general opinion that this paper, on training teacher-librarians, was a distinct contribution to this vital feature of Normal School library activities.

Keen interest was shown at the High School Round Table under the leadership of the chairman, May Ingles, librarian, Technical High School, Omaha. The keynote of the afternoon program was set by Ella Warren of the Girls High School of Louisville, Ky. Elizabeth Bevier, school library supervisor of New Brunswick, N. J., gave convincing arguments for adequate appropriations for high school libraries. All present were encouraged to aspire to gifts for one's library as described by Mary Hall. F. K. Walter led a discussion on the best way to file and keep fugitive material. A careful explanation of the new A. L. A. publication "Books for the High School Library" was presented by the compiler, Jessie Gay Van Cleve, of the A. L. A. Booklist. Zaidee Brown brought before the group the prospectus of the new high school list now being compiled by her in co-operation with nationally known ex-

perts in the various fields of secondary education, to be published by the H. W. Wilson Company.

There was a very large attendance at the general meeting of school librarians at Skidmore College Chapel. A paper on "Library Service for Rural Schools" was read by Herbert S. Hirshberg of Ohio State Library. Willis Kerr read Mr. Craig's paper on teachers reading circles. The Chicago Public Library has led the way for work with the special reading circles. William Yust read the excellent paper on "The Place of the Library in Junior High Schools" prepared by James Glass, director of junior high schools of Pennsylvania. More intensive work with civics classes was suggested by Dr. John Leeds, and Miss Ingles spoke of the investigation made by students regarding the welfare work done in department stores. A letter from Miss Mary Parsons, resident director of the Paris Library School, was read by Martha Wilson. Miss Parsons' letter was a plea for material for an exhibition of school libraries and their work. It was decided that librarians respond to this request by sending pictures and available material to A. L. A. Headquarters from which it will be shipped to the Library School in Paris.

It was decided to refer the compilation of a directory of school librarians to A. L. A. Headquarters. Mr. Kerr reported on the meeting of the Library Section of the N. E. A. It was the consensus of opinion of those present that the School Libraries Section of the A. L. A. shall be the professional group for the discussion of matters of joint interest, while the N. E. A. Library Department shall apply them and act as the executive group.

The newly elected officers are: Chairman, Annie S. Cutter, director of School Department, Cleveland (O.) Public Library; vice-chairman, Lucille F. Fargo, librarian, North Central High School Library, Spokane, Wash.; secretary-treasurer, Sylvia Oakley, librarian, High School, South Bend, Ind.

SYLVIA OAKLEY, *Secretary.*

Trustees' Section

THE Trustees' Section met July 3, with ninety-seven members present. Alfred D. Mason, chairman, Memphis, Tenn., called the meeting to order.

G. L. Zwick, Board of Directors, St. Joseph (Mo.) Public Library, presenting the first topic, "Business Methods and Efficiency in the Public Library," advanced the idea that to secure the utmost of efficiency, standing committees could profitably be appointed to make recommendations which should then be brought before the

entire board. He insisted that all recommendations as to staff, excepting those directly affecting the librarian, should come from the librarian; that a trustee when approached by a staff member should politely but firmly decline to consider anything not presented in writing for the deliberation of the entire board in executive session; that the general public likewise should present all criticisms, constructive or destructive, to the entire board. He held that obtaining of the necessary funds for the operation of the library was the chief duty of the library board, and that the judicious expenditure of this money was the chief duty and responsibility of the librarian. The \$1 per capita recommended by the A. L. A., he considered too low. One dollar of every \$10 expended for education in any community should be apportioned to the library, he thought.

Samuel H. Ranck gave an informal report of library conditions showing that between fifty and sixty libraries have \$1 per capita; six, \$2; three, \$3; two \$4; and two, \$5. George F. Bowerman urged that appropriations be based, not on percentage, but on adequate library facilities for the entire population. R. R. Bowker, editor of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, stressed the necessity of staff loyalty. Complaints should always be made to the entire board, he believed, and never to the individual trustee. Charles E. Rush of Indianapolis held it a mistake to hold board meetings at night. He said that in the interest of efficiency a board meeting should be held at about 4:30 p. m. and should be conducted strictly as a business proposition.

During a general discussion of the library board, consensus of opinion favored five to seven members. It was also recommended that the board be kept out of politics. Mrs. Earl advised against placing library boards under the control of school boards.

Concluding the discussion of efficiency in library methods, Mr. Mason stated that Memphis eliminated all red tape and purchased books in the open markets of the large cities. In the simplified system of accounting adopted by the Memphis library, the librarian is bonded and receives from the city a pink check covering all the salaries for the library. The librarian, in turn, issues a blue check to each employee. These checks are then balanced against each other at the close of each month. He said that every citizen of Memphis is within walking distance of a library. Sixteen branches have so far been established. They are placed preferably in a new store building, on a car line, and on a corner next to a drugstore. This is to give the librarian light and protection at all times. Three negro branches have been estab-

lished, and there is a negro library worker for the colored schools. The library maintains a bindery owned and operated by the library board.

Speaking on the topic, "Selling the Public Library Idea to City Officials," Mr. Ranck said to sell it to all the people rather than just to those who control the finances.

Washington T. Porter, trustee of the Cincinnati Public library, opened the second session with an address on the subject, "What Are the Necessary Qualifications of a Library Trustee?" The first qualification is enthusiasm for public service, not for public employment; the second, enthusiasm for library service, extension, and development. He suggested that one or more members of the board should be members of the bar.

George T. Settle of Louisville, Ky., in his talk, "Furnishing County Library Service Thru an Established Municipal Library," outlined such service as conducted by the Louisville Free Public library.

Mrs. Earl contrasted the advantages of county library service thru a municipal library with a pure county library. She said that Indiana believes in library service from an already existing library. Kate D. Andrews, Elmira, N. Y., told of their county library work carried on thru contract with the county commissioners.

"New Libraries Out of Old," the closing talk of the afternoon, was made by John A. Scott, trustee of the Jervis library, Rome, N. Y., detailing the evolution of a residence into a practical up-to-date library building.

Officers were elected as follows: Chairman, Judge G. L. Zwick, St. Joseph, Mo.; secretary, Mrs. Kate D. Andrews, Elmira, N. Y.

MRS. J. R. DALE, *Secretary.*

Round Tables Adult Education

THE Adult Education Round Table was held July 4, with an attendance of 190.

This Round Table was organized on short notice, in response to numerous requests of librarians for an opportunity to discuss together problems of mutual interest. Mr. Jennings and Mr. Dudgeon presided in turn.

Carl B. Roden of Chicago explained the reasons for and the importance of the inauguration of a special department in his library, with special assistants who devote their time to aiding readers who wish to follow courses of reading of their own selection. In speaking of the utilization of neighboring faculties to assist in some cases, Mr. Roden expressed the belief that when funds permitted these faculties

should be called on by the library on some basis other than that of charity. Alice M. Farquhar, in charge of the Readers' Bureau of the Chicago Public Library, conducted a spirited discussion on this subject.

Samuel H. Ranck of Grand Rapids led the discussion on work with boys and girls out of school. Mr. Ranck explained his campaign to reach these prospective readers by the "Don't-Be-a-Quitter" slogan, and emphasized the importance of the librarian taking the initiative to catch the intellectual interest of boys and girls out of school in something before they were too far beyond the influence of school and library.

"Library Assistance to Workers' Education Classes" was discussed by Miriam D. Tompkins of Milwaukee, who told of the slow but gradual progress the Milwaukee Public Library has made in its work with organized labor. Miss Tompkins is a trustee of the Workers' College of Milwaukee, and was one of the students of that institution last year. Thru the identification of Miss Tompkins and other librarians with the Labor College came invitations to attend meetings of the local labor organizations. Frequently books were taken to the meetings and loaned directly to new borrowers. This has been the means of bringing the library to new patrons and of demonstrating the universality of library methods.

E. Kathleen Jones, the general secretary, and Edna Phillips, in charge of work with foreigners, of the Division of Public Libraries, Massachusetts Department of Education, Boston, explained the problems involved in finding easy books for the newly literate as they met them in Massachusetts. The result of the long study of this problem is a list which is now in press with the Massachusetts Department of Education, "Adult Education Thru Library Books for New Americans."

Carl H. Milam spoke of the possibilities and limitations of reading courses and of the plans of the A. L. A. to begin a new series of reading courses this fall. Each course, according to present plans, will be prepared by a specialist and will include not only the reading course but a general introduction to the subject. It is hoped that the courses can be limited to five or six or, at most, eight or ten books.

L. L. DICKERSON, *Executive Assistant.*

Art Reference

THE first meeting of the Art Reference Round Table was held on July 4th, Antoinette Douglas of the St. Louis Public Library presiding, with an attendance of sixty-three, representing art departments of public libraries, libraries of art schools and museums,

and other organizations concerned with the handling of books, plates, clippings, and lantern slides.

L. V. Coleman of the American Association of Museums in his informal talk, "The Museum and the Library," described the educational work of the progressive museum. He made suggestions for the possible co-operation of Library and Museum. Most museums will circulate desired exhibits to libraries. These may be shown, with bibliographies on the subject of books that are available in the library. The American Federation of Arts has traveling art exhibits which are available to any responsible library wishing to borrow.

Mary Louise Alexander, of Barton, Durstine and Osborn, Inc., New York City, in her paper "Commercial Art and the Library" gave interesting information of the library needs of the commercial artist. She made many practical suggestions as to how the library may give the commercial artist the service he requires. Ruth Wilcox of the Cleveland Public Library in her paper on the library's responsibility in collecting source material concerning local art and artists, told how her library meets this responsibility.

A report of the work of the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries of the Art Institute of Chicago was sent by S. Louise Mitchell and was read by Mrs. Wappat, the secretary of the Round Table. Of special interest in the paper was the detailed description of the methods adopted by these libraries in handling clippings, pamphlets, and information file.

The officers elected for the coming year are Antoinette Douglas, chairman, and Ruth Wilcox, secretary. It is hoped that anyone who did not attend the meeting, who is interested in the Art Library, will communicate with the secretary.

BLANCHE K. S. WAPPAT, *Secretary.*

County Libraries

IN the absence of its chairman, Gertrude Hall, of Pendleton, Ore., Anne Mulheron, of Portland, Ore., acting chairman, called the County Libraries Round Table to order on Thursday afternoon, July 3, and presented as the first speaker Mildred H. Pope, library organizer in New York State. Miss Pope's paper, entitled "The County Library Movement in New York State," should be of considerable interest to all readers and library workers in rural communities. She emphasized the fact that the Empire State steps forward in a humble rôle in the matter of county libraries, and that the latter is in a theoretical stage, but expressed the be-

lief that it was going to end in a definite and certain movement.

As to the two chief items in the county law, Miss Pope said, "The first county library law in New York State became effective in April, 1921, and has had but few amendments. It makes possible the establishment of a county library by two methods: (a) by vote of the county or county board of supervisors, and (b) by contract with said county board of supervisors. In March, 1921, an amendment to the law was made allowing for a rural traveling library system. As to the two county libraries in existence in the State, Miss Pope stated, "First on the map of New York State was the establishment of the Chemung County library service by means of a contract with the board of supervisors. This took a picturesque turn. The Steele Memorial Library of Elmira had given county library service, but as it grew found itself unable to bear the entire expense. The board of supervisors refused to aid the library and the library was forced to discontinue the county service." This brought about the Chemung county library service made possible by a contract between the county board of supervisors and the Steele Memorial Library.

"Methods of Improving Reading Habits Thru the County Library System" was the subject of a paper by Bessie B. Silverthorn, of Modesto, Cal., read by her chief, Milton J. Ferguson, State Librarian, California. Miss Silverthorn stressed personal contact, publicity and the book collection as the three essential methods.

Obviously the discussion was of considerable interest, since it prolonged the session into the late afternoon. Of special interest were the statements of Mr. Ferguson in developing custodian material. He described the method upon which one county librarian worked. Starting out in the morning with the truck filled with her assistants she stopped at the first branch, dropped an assistant and took on the custodian, continuing until she had the truck full of custodians and had dropped all assistants. This gave the assistants opportunity to check up on the branch, the custodians and the people thruout the county, and presented opportunity for a staff meeting of custodians where methods of improving the service were discussed. Each custodian carried her lunch. It was often an all day meeting; many matters pertaining to county work were considered, and custodians were enabled to see parts of the county other than their own.

Cornelia Marvin, state librarian of Oregon, was elected chairman of the County Libraries Section for the coming year.

N. LOUISE RUCKTESHLER.

Hospital Libraries

HOSPITAL Libraries Round Table was held July 2nd in the Casino Ball Room. The one hundred and thirty-five persons in attendance represented the Navy and the Veterans' Bureau Hospitals, private and city hospitals, and public libraries actually giving hospital service or interested in learning the best methods. It was a live meeting even tho the only one of the speakers whose names appeared on the program was able to be present.

E. Kathleen Jones acted as chairman. Perrie Jones, hospital librarian, St. Paul (Minn.) Public Library, was unanimously elected chairman for 1924-25. Grace Shellenberger reported on the resolution passed at Hot Springs asking for "A unit plan of what may be expected in the term adequate book service, on a basis of 1000 beds, in the terms of service and costs." It seems to be impossible to reduce library service to figures. The U. S. V. B. and the Navy hospitals are the only ones having standardized libraries. Private and municipal hospitals and public libraries are working out their own schemes according to their needs, their staff and their income. Salaries vary; appropriations for books range from nothing and consequent dependence on gifts and loans from the public libraries to \$25 a month for new books and yearly periodical subscriptions of several hundred dollars. In the discussion following the report it was mentioned that the commanding officer of one navy hospital had made a very true statement when he said that as good a selection of books, as careful an organization of the library, and as fine a librarian is needed for two hundred men as for two thousand.

Mention was made of the fine course for hospital librarians to be offered this fall in the University of Minnesota. This course has been worked out by Dr. Beard representing the medical side, Frank K. Walter, who has had much experience with library schools, and Perrie Jones, who is well acquainted with the needs of the hospital libraries. Miss Tyler made the announcement that lectures on hospital library work are being given in the Western Reserve University Library School and practice work offered at the Lakeside Hospital in Cleveland.

So general and hearty had been the response to the request in the library periodicals for brief reports from hospitals and public libraries giving library service to patients, that Miss Jones could only summarize from them some of the outstanding features which might serve as suggestions to other hospital librarians. For instance, in the U. S. V. B. Hospital in Oteen, N. C., entering patients receive letters telling

them about the library, its hours and privileges. The negro hospital at Tuskegee is making a special collection of pictures of eminent negroes and of race literature and traditions. The librarian, herself colored, gives monthly book talks on the wards and to the nurses as well as a weekly story hour in the mental wards. In Omaha, as in St. Paul, the entering wedge of library service was the local medical or hospital association. In Omaha a neurologist on the staff of one hospital consults the librarian on specially helpful books for patients. Miss Graffen spoke briefly of the work in Philadelphia and Miss Hickman gave a very interesting account of the development of book service in Rochester, Minnesota, the home of the Mayo brothers and the city of hospitals and sanatoria.

The first paper on the program was on "The Place of the Library in the Modern Hospital," by Dr. William L. Russell, Medical Director of Bloomingdale Hospital, White Plains, N. Y. As Dr. Russell was unavoidably detained because of a case in court Miss Jones read his paper. Mrs. Grace W. Myers was also unable to be present, and Miss Jones read her paper, "The Medical Library in the Hospital: The Key to a Thousand Problems."

The topic "The Library and the Training School for Nurses" was to have been discussed by representatives from the St. Paul municipal hospitals, Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, and McLean Hospital, Waverley, Mass., but the librarians from the last two hospitals were unable to be present. Miriam E. Carey gave a summary of the courses in books and reading given by her and Perrie Jones in the St. Paul hospital. Kathleen Jones told of the courses on the development of the English novel and on the history of art given by her in the training school for nurses at McLean Hospital from 1913 to 1918. Interrupted by the war and the consequent reorganization of the training school, these courses are now resumed under the present librarian, Laura F. Philbrook. Mention was also made of the assistance given by the librarian to the nurses in Lakeside Hospital in connection with the regular training school courses. This hospital has a fine collection of books on nursing and medicine for the nurses.

E. KATHLEEN JONES, *Chairman.*

Library Buildings

IN the absence of Willis K. Stetson, who was elected chairman in 1923, Arthur E. Bostwick of St. Louis, presided. The first topic considered was book stacks in relation to planning.

He opened the discussion by reading the program and describing the diagram of stack rooms of various libraries made by Mr. Stetson. Mr.

Ranck described the Wilmington, Del., plan and could see no reason why the stack could not go below the first floor so that other parts of the building could have the benefit of light. He said that the Wilmington Library was a beautiful building with good colors, and mentioned that the new central building of the Free Library of Philadelphia will have a stack, part of which will go below the street level, and that the architects say the walls can be damp-proofed. Dr. Bostwick said that the St. Louis stack has reached the limit and cannot go up, and he was interested in suggestions for making extensions to stacks. A university librarian reported that the faculty object to working in stack levels underground. Mr. Hadley of Denver Public Library thought that the dampness was largely due to condensation and said double walls properly damp-proofed would be helpful. It was Dr. Bostwick's opinion that stacks could go below ground floor level, as much of that space is not fit for anything else, and stacks going above the first floor level take space that could very well be used for other purposes.

Mr. Hadley said that the Denver stack has been used as a horrible example of what not to do, but it should be borne in mind that the stack is fifteen years old and that glass was the only material used for stack floors at that time. His objections were that glass in stack floors expands and contracts and breaks and the cement comes out. The marginal bars or curve angles are often used as foot wipers because their ventilating slits are horizontal instead of vertical and this space had to be filled in with wood in Denver.

Someone reported that his shelves fall out easily and are only six inches deep, but he feels that it is an injustice to blame this on the stack manufacturer, as that stack is fifteen years old and much of the fault in arranging the stack is due to the architect. He suggested that it would be desirable to have a more flexible stack. Mr. Yust said that the Louisville stack had the same objections. The workroom and catalog rooms there, however, were built around the stack. This brought the delivery space and the workrooms in direct contact with the stacks and avoided long distances. The disadvantage is the loss of natural light. The last scheme depends upon the width of outside offices as to how much light will enter the stack. Anyone doing special work does not have privacy and comes in contact with those in the offices. He described the Utica stack which does not go to the outside walls, giving good reading space along the windows. The Portland, Ore., stack was de-

scribed as being all interior and naturally better for reading rooms and highly satisfactory for bringing books to work rooms and charging desk.

Dr. Bostwick asked for comments on the Cleveland stack. He described the new library as being a cubical building to match the Federal Building. The stack is wound around the central court, the reading rooms around the outside. Dr. Bostwick could see that they are going to have some trouble with it. Mr. Sanborn said it might mean more attendants. Dr. Bostwick reported that they would have about twelve charging desks at exits to the halls and but one place to return books.

Dr. Andrews, speaking of his experience at the John Crerar Library believes that books should be shelved closer the point where they are to be charged. Crerar Library stack was structurally supported independent of building columns. His opinion is that the stack insofar as possible, should be built independent of the building walls to permit extension. Dr. Bostwick said that when Cleveland Library was planned six stories high, only four were to be used for the library, but the library has grown since so that now all six floors will be used for library purposes. He said that a reader who will require books from three separate stack rooms will be directed to the "popular library," which he does not look upon with favor.

Miss Doren, of Dayton, will have a central stack in the new building and will depend upon carriers as there is no hope but to transfer books to readers. Departmentalized stacks are also objected to because it requires duplicate catalogs for every special collection.

Dr. Andrews has never used anything but artificial light in the Crerar stack and has had no trouble. The architect figured that the extra cost of providing stack light wells would have been more than keeping all of their electric lights on all of the time. Mr. Ranck suggested the omission of windows and the outside end aisles, putting ends of stack against the wall. Dr. Andrews agrees that ends of stack can be put against the wall as boys know where books are, and the stack boys in Crerar do not use the end aisle once in ten times. Mr. Ranck believes that 20 per cent increase in book capacity can be accomplished by the omission of windows and end aisles.

Relative to insufficient light and air in interior stack rooms, Mr. Ranck believes that the trouble is largely psychological rather than actual as with modern electric lighting, more than sufficient light can be provided and

forced ventilation can be used. Relative to departmentalized stacks, Dr. Bostwick would prefer a complete catalog for every stack room.

Mr. Sanborn, in describing the new building for Bridgeport, Conn., said that while one side of the stack room would have windows, it would go close up against buildings in the back and they would depend almost wholly upon artificial light, and would omit outside end aisles, running stack to walls.

The discussion turned to library quarters. Dr. Andrews suggested the use of big windows placed low enough that the passerby could see what was going on in the library, and the omission of a front lawn. Mr. Ranck said the proposed new branch library building for Grand Rapids is on a business street, in a distinct section of the city, having a population of about 50,000. The building will be 152 feet long on the street by 30 feet deep, (the central part of the building 70 feet deep) with space for expansion in the rear. There will be seven large seven-foot-wide show windows so that people can see in, the windows being practically all glass with narrow one-inch metal, suggested by the architect for effect and reduced cost of large plates of glass. There will be no steps from the sidewalk. The children's room is 30 feet by 64 feet, adults' room of the same size on the other end, reference room at the rear, seating between thirty-five and forty readers, book storage space in the basement without front windows. The second floor is to be used for extension librarian's rest and lunch rooms, movies, lectures and exhibitions, class-rooms, etc., to cost about \$150,000, built of tapestry brick and reinforced concrete, over one mile from main building, and is to have twenty thousand square feet of floor space, consisting of first and second floors and basement. Mr. Yust, in Rochester, started with the store type of building for branches and saw a possibility for continuing the store-window type for new buildings. Of the nine branches, six come up to the sidewalk. The tenth to be built will have plate glass at both ends which he thinks will be an additional attractive feature. As a substitute for show windows, Miss Doren described her portable booths which are placed in the park paths.

Mr. Bostwick had sent him by Miss Drake, the plans of the Pasadena (Calif.) Public Library which is all on one floor, patio arrangement. There are several rooms with colonnaded aisles to carry out a basilica construction, the columns supporting the walls above for clerestory lighting. He questioned the wisdom of these columns and Miss Drake asked

for comments. The architect has declined to omit them, claiming that he won the competition on that plan. The pillars were 8 ft. from the wall. The reading rooms were inside of the columns. There were two rows of pillars one on each side of the room. It was objected that this obstructs the room, prevents elastic arrangement, occupies floor space needed for reading tables and floor stacks if necessary. The columns when in alignment form a screen behind which one could stand to mutilate a book. He suggested clearing them away. Mr. Ranck suggested that Miss Drake should fight for her opinion to omit them.

Miss West described the Houston Public Library plan saying that the librarian and board gave a sketch to the architect to plan the library and make it beautiful and to consider climate, as in the Southwest library reading rooms should derive the greatest benefit from the southerly winds without which it is impossible to use the rooms in comfort.

Samuel H. Ranck, of Grand Rapids, was unanimously elected chairman for next year.

HARRY R. DATZ, *Acting Secretary*.

Public Documents

THE first portion of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the Library Information Service in the Bureau of Education, as proposed in H. R. 633 introduced in Congress, the purpose of which is to disseminate information directly to libraries regarding the activities of the Government.

The first paper by G. O. Ward, technical librarian of the Cleveland Public Library, discussed this service from the standpoint of a large public library.

The next speaker, Frank Tolman, reference librarian, New York State Library, spoke from the standpoint of a large reference library. Mr. Tolman said that the Government is the only source of much valuable information. Several commercial information services merely peddle at second-hand and at high price information obtained from Government sources, such as the publications of the Department of Agriculture, Standards Bureau, and the Geological Survey.

Government documents can never be adequately used except thru special organization in the library. Classification and cataloging almost never proceed rapidly enough to make documents available in the regular way. Special grouping of documents is almost essential. The New York State Library uses the Superintendent of Documents Office Classification, and reference work is done directly from the shelf.

Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., represented the point of view of the special business library. The pro-

posed Library Information Service will be of immeasurable value in solving the great problem of the special library, which is to discover the best sources of business information.

Edith Guerrier said that a bill to provide a Library Information Service was introduced in 1919, reported favorably; again introduced in 1923. The total amount asked for is \$23,500. She did not favor any more printing, other than that of a small news sheet to advertise what is already printed. The Bureau should function as a distributing agent for material already printed, and should direct inquirers to the proper source for information.

Mrs. Maude Sullivan of El Paso, Texas, followed with a bright and stimulating talk on public documents in the home. Experience in the use of public documents shows the great variety of subjects covered, she said. There is hardly a phase of the cultural or educational life of a community that is not treated specifically in some one of these publications.

Homes can be so much more attractive, gardens more abundant and trees more beautiful; children healthier and happier; incomes more wisely expended by having at hand this brief, timely and intelligent information for home makers.

Angus Fletcher, director, described the work of the British Library Information Service. (See LIBRARY JOURNAL May 1, 1924, page 413.)

Mary A. Hartwell, from the office of the Superintendent of Documents, brought encouraging news. Salaries of the members of the Superintendent of Documents staff have been favorably affected by the act of the new classification board. Beginning with the first of July, the *Monthly Catalog* will carry the Superintendent of Documents classification numbers. The *Official Gazette* and *Geological Depository Libraries* are to be dropped. Any library, however, so affected and wishing to continue to receive these publications can make arrangements to do so with the Bureau. A change is to be made in the method of issuing the serial set still further to facilitate the binding of documents and to reduce the delay in sending out the bound set.

Carl Vitz was re-elected chairman.

Publicity

SCHEDULED speakers on library publicity were librarians of four typical but widely different libraries: Charlotte Templeton of the Greenville (S. C.) Public Library; Harold L. Wheeler of the Hackley Public Library, Muskegon, Mich.; Lloyd W. Josselyn of the Birmingham (Ala.) Public Library; and Elizabeth M. Smith of the new Public Library of Albany,

N. Y. Each of these librarians had had recent conspicuous experience in making their libraries better known and more widely used.

The theories of library publicity were touched upon only incidentally by the speakers, who practically presented outlines of their own recent publicity activities. On the other hand, policies formed the major part of the discussion from the floor at the close of the meeting. Miss Templeton instanced examples of co-operation from smaller newspapers, and the benefit to her library from a carefully planned Library Week. Mr. Wheeler emphasized exhibits of various kinds outside the library building; for example, booths at local expositions, posters and tables of books at banks and in stores, also the provocative billboard. Mr. Josselyn told how he had made the library of Birmingham "front page news." He also outlined publicity methods, educational in purpose, which ultimately secured appropriations for a county system. Miss Smith's paper outlined a publicity policy different in approach, one in which the plan was used over a much greater length of time and which had for its purpose the "gaining of momentum" for the library idea thru the active participation of clubs and other local organizations rather than a definite number of pieces of publicity.

Attendance at the round table numbered over two hundred. The scheduled speeches were pleasingly informal, from notes, and were characterized by extremely well-worked planned outlines, clearness of delivery and lack of platitudes. In the absence of the chairman, Nathan R. Levin of the Chicago Public Library, the discussion was led by Margery Quigley of the Endicott (N. Y.) Free Library.

After the program as announced was completed, the meeting divided into two sections. Half of those present adjourned to see the recently completed set of slides—one on library work in general and the other on library publicity. Mr. Joseph Wheeler, of Youngstown, explained the slides as they were thrown upon the screen. Those who for lack of room did not attend the exhibition of lantern slides resolved into a group for discussion of the outstanding points of the earlier informal addresses. The marked feeling of the more conservative element in the group was summarized in a brief speech by Chalmers Hadley of Denver. Belief was expressed that in many libraries, publicity of the sort outlined by the speakers who were engaged in "selling the library idea" to their communities was not everywhere desirable. Especially where circulation was already large and funds fairly adequate,

more stress should be placed on quality of service and on books, it was believed.

The discussion of publicity for small libraries was continued on the following morning at the Round Table for Small Libraries. The paper presented by Nora Crimmins, in which the wide use of newspapers and the co-operation received from local organizations of importance in Chattanooga were described, was followed by descriptions of other sorts of library publicity and by statements of opinion by librarians in smaller places where possibility of newspaper publicity was altogether lacking. In this latest discussion, the majority seemed to consider the "satisfied customer" the best publicity asset of the small library.

MARGERY QUIGLEY, *Acting Secretary.*

Religious Books

THE Religious Book Round Table held its meeting on the afternoon of July 3d with Frank G. Lewis, librarian of Crozer Theological Seminary, as acting chairman.

Dr. Richardson, of Princeton University, read a very suggestive paper on theological libraries as a field for co-operation. He emphasized that he had prepared his paper from the standpoint of the A. L. A. Committee on Bibliography, of which he is chairman. This made his survey of the situation and his proposals doubly important.

"I suggest that this association set for its conscious object the promotion of co-operation all along the line; choosing, getting, housing, preparing for use, lending and reference, and that it include both the educational and research aspects, both popular religious education and technical theological education. I suggest that it take up the problem at once and that this action involves: 1. A select list of fifty thousand first books for a theological library. This should be made synthetically from Hurst, Cave, Schaff, Sonnenschein, etc., from lists of books recommended to students for courses in theological seminaries and other select lists. Very considerable collections to this end are already available. 2. Detailed agreements for specialization based on the Mudge list. This involves immediate and thoro co-operation with Miss Mudge in the preparation of her new edition. 3. A joint shortest title catalog of theological libraries, based on (1) The fifty thousand best books. (2) The L. C. Theological cards. (3) Princeton University theology. (4) Any contributions from theological seminaries —these forming a first check list for use of other libraries. 4. A strong experiment in the joint purchase and assignment of not less than

ten copies each of the best fifty thousand books, and at least one copy each of all useful books in the various specialties. (This latter in co-operation with the general research libraries.) 5. Careful work over the subject headings of the Union Theological Seminary in order to put these in harmony with the usage of the Library of Congress and make a standardized basis for theological seminary use. 6. Making a joint index to the standard classifications in use, the L. C., D. C., E. C., Brown, Union, Hartford, etc., so that translation from one to the other may be automatic. 7. A definite effort to provide for printed cards by dividing up the fifty thousand best books not now in printed cards, among the libraries which have staffs equipped to catalog on Library of Congress standards. It is thought that Harvard, Yale, Chicago and others which have not wholly re-cataloged their theology, may be willing or glad to take up a section at an early date if the work is thus organized on a reciprocity basis. 8. A committee to take up the question, with the great research libraries, of the purchase of books for theological research. It has been found in an experiment, that the research books in all the theological libraries put together do not go as far in theological books as a few of the great libraries. It appears that theological research must depend largely on the research libraries rather than on the special theological libraries. 9. A committee for the indexing of theological periodicals and collections supplementing the Wilson indexes and especially considering those periodicals which are not to be found in more than a dozen libraries, but may be wanted in hundreds, and studying the most economical methods of indexing. 10. A committee on co-operative lending and reference to work with the A. L. A. Committee and the League Committee in securing postal rates for library books in developing methods of reciprocal help in reference service. 11. Study of other matters of theological library co-operation."

The proposal of Dr. Richardson was cordially welcomed and it was voted to appoint a committee to carry out his suggestions in such ways as may be possible, with Dr. Lewis as chairman and Anna L. Brackbill, secretary.

An informal discussion followed in which Prof. William J. Hinke, librarian of Auburn Theological Seminary, described in some detail the successful experiment at Auburn of sending their old catalog to the Library of Congress where search for cards was made in both the L. C. and the union catalogs and photostat copies of the latter utilized as a basis for cataloging a large proportion of the Auburn

books not already covered in L. C. Prof. Hinke emphasized how valuable the suggestions of Dr. Richardson had been for them thruout the re-cataloging process.

The necessary change of time of the round table from the printed schedule of the 4th to the afternoon of the 3rd deprived the meeting of the presence and suggestive experience of Marion Humble, and this note is the least possible recognition of Miss Humble's interest and readiness to assist.

Rev. Samuel G. Ayres, librarian of Garrett Biblical Institute, spoke on exchanges among religious libraries. He illustrated from experience how useful exchanges may be even in the acceptance of the libraries of superannuated or deceased ministers, as each is likely to contain something of value and occasionally reveals a rare item of great importance. Exchanges among libraries of religion are to be encouraged, he urged, according to a liberal policy even the similar values are not always received. Mr. Ayres contributed to the meeting further by proposing a list of important recent books.

At the close of the meeting the committee elected as above, at the suggestion of Dr. Richardson met and agreed to take up as its first step the matter of a union list of subject headings to be worked out on the basis of the Union Theological Seminary List recently issued in connection with the L. C. headings and others.

The officers chosen for the coming year are: Chairman, Frank G. Lewis; Secretary, Anna L. Brackbill.

FRANK G. LEWIS, *Secretary*.

Small Libraries

THE Round Table of Small Libraries met on Wednesday morning, July 3, with Mrs. Lillian B. Griggs of the North Carolina Library Commission, Raleigh, as chairman.

The first speaker was Dorothy Hurlbert, librarian of the Public Library of Hibbing, Minnesota, whose subject was staff administration for the small library. Miss Hurlbert likened the principles underlying library work to those of the business and professional world, with achievement as a game and service as a goal, and translated into library terms ideas and ideals from many trades and professions.

Publicity in the small library was discussed by Nora Crimmins of the Chattanooga Public Library, who called to mind the first publicity in the admonition to "Silence" in the Free Town Libraries of the early 1700's, and contrasted the present prominence of the library in letter, screen, newspaper and billboard, in churches and in clubs, with the old attitude, and the modern librarian with her "mouse-like"

predecessor. Miss Crimmins argued that the title Public Library implied ownership by the citizens and marked a right to as much information about the library as shareholders are accorded in their corporate business. News is something fresh and interesting to the public. Library reports, if dressed up in good English and enlivened with human interest notes, may become such news. Careful noting of gifts is suggestive to other possible donors, stressing always the Public idea of the organization.

Standardization was the next topic, discussed for public libraries by Beverly Wheatcroft of the Georgia Library Commission, who considered the problem from the standpoint of the southern states.

Elizabeth H. West of the Texas State Library considered the problem of standardization of school libraries. She stated that there are no universal cut and dried standards. Schools receiving rural aid must have "such libraries as the state department shall rule," the matter being usually intrusted to the school supervisors. The different state educational agencies are co-operating to establish standards in book supply, equipment, organization, and service. The Texas State Library has, with the permission of the authors, reprinted in a manual the standards as follows: for high schools by C. C. Certain, for teacher training institutions by W. H. Kerr, for public libraries by Julia A. Robinson, and on salaries by the American Library Association Committee on Salaries. Copies of this manual may be obtained upon request from the Texas State Library, Austin. Miss West stated that California, Minnesota, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have gone farther than other states in school library standardization, and that Ohio is actively working under a new organization.

Officers for the ensuing year will be chosen by a committee appointed by the chair, when the place of meeting has been decided upon.

NELLE A. OLSON, *Secretary*.

Training Class Instructors

THE Round Table met on Thursday, July 3. The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Julia A. Hopkins, supervisor of Staff Instruction, Brooklyn Public Library.

The report of the committee appointed to work out a standardized course for training classes was read by Emma V. Baldwin, director of the Training Class, Washington, D. C. The findings of the survey showed that of the eighty-one libraries registered with the round table, only fifty reported class instruction; the others took apprentices into the library only as vacan-

cies occurred on the staff, and gave what simple instruction was required for the immediate situation. The fifty libraries conducting courses fell into three groups: those giving courses from seven to nine months in length, with a full-time instructor in charge of the course; four to six months in length, with the head of some other department in the library in charge; and one to three months, usually in charge of the librarian. The courses given by most of the libraries in the third group were quite distinctly apprentice courses with much less organization than the courses in the first and second groups. The committee deemed it unwise to try to determine standards for such apprentice courses, but has worked out two courses for training classes to fit the libraries in the first and second groups. In order to make the scheme elastic the desirable minimum for each group was suggested, with several possibilities for expansion. The report was adopted.

The second topic was Recruiting for Librarianship. The first speaker was Clara F. Baldwin, director of the Library Division of the Minnesota Department of Education. Miss Baldwin described the work of Maud Van Buren, librarian of the Owatonna (Minn.) Public Library, in drawing desirable candidates into the library. The librarian selects high school students, limiting the number to three, for their high standing in school and the special recommendations of their teachers. These students give two class periods a day to practical work in the public library under the supervision of the librarian. One high school credit is given for this course. Of the eleven students who have taken the course, two are in college, planning to go to library school; two are training for teaching; two are assistants in the library, planning to go to college and then library school; two go to college in the fall; one is a book agent who hopes to go to college; one has gone to business college; two are uncertain as to their vocation. The success of the plan in the Owatonna library has led the library commission to advocate the plan to other libraries in the state.

Jennie M. Flexner, head of the Circulating Department of the Louisville Free Public Library, reported that Louisville drew its students from a large section of the surrounding country, doing a sort of missionary work by training those who could not go to a library school. The number of non-residents who could be admitted to the class is restricted to two in a class of twelve. The trustees require the announcement to be published in the newspapers for three consecutive Sundays before the examination. Many of these non-residents wished to stay in

the library, and the standing of the staff had been improved. The high school helped recruit for the library by having one week in the English course devoted to vocational guidance, and the high school librarians told about the attractions of the library profession. They also employed the students as volunteer assistants.

In the absence of Laura Smith, chief of the Catalog and Reference Departments of the Cincinnati Public Library, Agnes Hilton, a trustee of the library, described the method of employing college women as substitutes in the library during the summer months. Alice Shepard, assistant librarian of the Springfield City Library Association, was represented by Nellie E. Dodge. Miss Dodge told how the Springfield Library recruited its assistants from all over New England, as the training class was one of the first in the country to give a course that in length and standard approaches very closely to the course advocated by the A. L. A. Temporary Library Training Board.

Ethel T. Sawyer, director of the training class of the Portland (Ore.) Library Association, was elected chairman for the coming year.

MARY A. CASAMAJOR, *Secretary pro tem.*

University Library Extension Service

A MEETING of persons interested in university library extension service was held Tuesday, July 1, with Almere Scott, of the University of Wisconsin Extension Division, in the chair. Ada J. McCarthy acted as secretary in the absence of Helen Wagstaff.

Universities and colleges have the books and the experts to guide the individual in his reading and study, said Charles H. Brown, librarian of Iowa State College, Ames, in his talk on university extension library service in relation to other state-wide library agencies. University libraries have not as yet worked out their relationship to this adult educational movement. Agricultural colleges loan books to farmers, and Amherst has its alumni reading courses, but there is need for more organization, more definition, and more publicity.

Jessie Sprague, president of the Wisconsin Library Association, discussed the service and its relation to the public library. She said that in small towns the only community organization that is reaching out and extending its influence to all the people is the public library.

Many of the requests submitted to the University Extension Division in Wisconsin may be and are referred to the public library. The inquirer from a community having a public library is asked to ascertain what the library has on the subject about which he wishes infor-



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mation, so that the Division may supplement rather than duplicate in its aid. Thru the public library, individuals and clubs are brought into touch with the Guided-Club-Studies offered by the university. A large number of clubs in Wisconsin will be studying in Wisconsin this year, using material furnished in part by the local libraries and in part by the university.

"The University Package Library and the Classical Teacher" was the subject of a talk by Frances Sabin of the Service Bureau for Classical Teachers of Teachers College Columbia University. The Bureau, established under the auspices of the American Classical League, aims to disseminate information and material thru a Correspondence Department, and the publication of a four-page leaflet known as *Latin Notes*, and Latin Package Libraries. Certain items in mimeographed or printed form are lent to teachers or sold at a minimum cost. A list of material available at the end of the school year appears in the April issue of *Latin Notes*. Eight states are now using the service. The recent completion of the Classical Survey of classical subjects in secondary schools financed by the General Education Board, makes the establishment particularly opportune.

J. G. Crownhart, secretary of the State Medical Society of Wisconsin, described the relations between the Society and the Package Library Department of the state university. The latter receives monthly reprints of all scientific papers published under the auspices of the American Medical Association. In addition, the *Wisconsin Medical Journal* sends to the department all its journals received on the exchange list. The University Medical Department assists in arranging these papers under the most practical and general headings, after which the packages are available to the physicians of the state. The state medical journal calls attention to this service every month.

Le Noir Dimmitt, loan librarian, Extension Division, University of Texas, was elected chairman for next year's meeting with the privilege of choosing the secretary.

LIBRARY CALENDAR

- Aug. 22. At Charleston. Meeting of the West Virginia Library Association.
- Aug. 25-27. At Victoria; B. C. Annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Library Association.
- Aug. 28-30. At Sante Fé (N. M.). Southwestern Library Association regional meeting in connection with the New Mexico Library Association.
- Sept. 8-13. At Glasgow, Scotland. Annual conference of the (British) Library Association.
- Sept. 17-18. At Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs. Connecticut Library Association.

Other Associations Bibliographical Society of America

THE Bibliographical Society met at Saratoga Springs July 4 at 2:30 p. m. The program was unusually varied and interesting, and the attendance of over eighty was larger than usual. Professor Azariah S. Root of Oberlin was in the chair.

Frank H. Schechter of New York city discussed "Printers' Devices." Mr. Schechter is a lawyer and became interested in the subject in connection with legal rights. The modern trade mark is a symbol of legal good will and is an asset; the medieval trade mark was regulatory and distinctly a liability. Mr. Schechter then turned to printers' devices and found that they differed decidedly from the trade marks, for they were optional, not compulsory, variable, not limited in number, and were symbols of self-expression, decorative rather than regulatory. The subject was developed from the first device in 1457, thru the relations with colophons, including the printers of different countries, especially England, and up to the time when the English law took notice of them, first by Star Chamber decree in 1586, and then by statute in 1662.

Frank E. Robbins of Ann Arbor had a delightful paper on "Pickwickian Chronology." It was evident that Mr. Pickwick was well-known to the audience, but apparently no one had noticed the chronological discrepancies that Mr. Robbins had investigated by aid of the calendar and consistent checking up of the book. The first meeting of the Pickwick Club occurred May 12, 1827 and according to this, Dickens has arranged travel and balls on Sundays, a jump of three years at once, impossible feats in transmission of letters, and travels by Mr. Pickwick, October scenery described in August, Christmas preparations begun in September, and so on. Mr. Robbins said "The adjective Pickwickian has come to mean fantastic; to all of us something that is delightfully and not strictly in accord with the stern facts of the world. The foregoing paragraphs are sufficient, I believe, to demonstrate that one of the most Pickwickian features of the Pickwick Papers is their chronology. . . ."

Thomas J. Holmes of Cleveland developed a thesis on "Cotton Mather and His Writings on Witchcraft." Taking the four hundred and seventy-five items listed under Cotton Mather, he found they were on all sorts of subjects, including funeral sermons, medicine, biographies, etc. Only two full works, and enough chapters, prefaces, etc., to make up sixteen were on witch-

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craft. During the witchcraft years he published thirty items on other subjects. Also, as there was need of a supporting public to publish books at that time, the list of publications indicates no such diminution of support or discrediting by the public as several authors have said, including a recent one who writes, "Public opinion was solidly against him."

Louis H. Fox of the New York Public Library presented the second of the papers arranged for by Professor Root for the Society on the newspapers of the period 1820-1850, the first on the District of Columbia newspapers having been presented at the Chicago 1923 meeting. Mr. Fox's list is not yet completed, but he indicated some of the interest aroused in him in the development of the subject, the use that will be made of such bibliographies and the present interest in newspaper subjects. He discussed the form of the list, taking the New York *Evening Post* for a sample.

S. Y. Li, now working in the Chinese collection of the Library of Congress, gave a very unusual and interesting paper on Chinese bibliography. He said there was a vast amount of material in China which must be assembled according to Western methods. Mr. Li emphasized that his paper was on Chinese books on the subject, not a bibliography on China. He treated first the history of Chinese bibliographies from 600 B.C. Of these, this summary will mention only one or two,—the Ss Ku of the early Christian era, with its six main divisions, thirty-eight subdivisions, and 30,000 chapters, a classification now used in the Library of Congress. Two works of the Ming dynasty include the National Bibliography of Historical Literature, the outstanding selective bibliography, and the Four Treasures. Mr. Li also summed up the kinds of modern bibliographies. He next spoke of scope and functions, showing how the spirit of China must change from private collections to public, and how these lists represent the interests of the learned people in different periods. As to their characteristics, they are arranged by classes, not alphabetically, giving title first, the number of chapters, location of copies, author and his birth date and his title and degrees, descriptive annotations and contents, and the character of seals. The number of pages is never given. This would seem to be very satisfactory, but Mr. Li criticized the carelessness and lack of thoroughness of the older scholars. He outlined bibliographical needs and the necessity of hardworking scholarship, and asked for co-operation.

The treasurer's report of date December 31, 1923, indicated 213 members, of whom 33 were new, and seven life members, the total being

the largest the Society has ever recorded. There is barely enough money to pay for the 1923 Papers. The membership fund contains \$457. The question of a contribution to the Gesamt Katalog der Incunabula was discussed, and it was decided to find out exactly the status of this before taking action on a contribution.

The committee on nomination reported in favor of re-electing the same officers, as follows: President, Azariah S. Root; first vice-president, Harry M. Lydenberg; second vice-president, Charles Martel; secretary, Augustus H. Shearer, Grosvenor Library, Buffalo; treasurer, F. W. Faxon, Roslindale, Mass.; Councillor, G. A. Plimpton, New York City.

AUGUSTUS H. SHEARER, *Secretary*

League of Library Commissions

THE League of Library Commissions met at Saratoga Springs, July 6, 1924, Milton J. Ferguson presiding. The program consisted of papers by Anna A. McDonald, Charles E. Rush, and Sydney B. Mitchell, copies of which papers were left with the secretary.

Anna May Price recommended that the Survey questionnaires to be sent out by the Committee of Five be sent to the several libraries thru the several state commissions. Julia A. Robinson, Arthur R. Curry, Julia W. Merrill, and others commended the idea. Elizabeth West recommended the preparation of an omnibus questionnaire to serve the Committee of Five, the Department of Education, etc. A committee was appointed to confer with Dr. Bostwick, *et al* to this end. Those appointed were Miss Price, Miss West and Mr. Curry. This committee conferred with Secretary Milam, and two of the three decided that the plan would not be practical because not all the questionnaires would be intended for the same groups and delay in returns would be occasioned by the intervention of the Commissions. Mailing lists change. Some states have no Commissions, and hence the direct mailing would have to continue in some states.

Anna A. McDonald read a paper on the library systems best adapted to serve the American people. She said that our ideals as commission workers were the causes which would result in better libraries. "Books for everybody and everybody for books."

Charles E. Rush read a short paper on the training, ethical standards, and ideals of the library personnel. He said that our training facilities are inadequate. To form a clientèle of seekers after wisdom and knowledge is the chief aim of the public library.

The last formal number on the program was a paper by Sydney B. Mitchell on "The Re-

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turn Made to the People on Their Investment." He gave us a delightful sample of his direct questionnaire method. He compared librarians and assistants with business clerks to the advantage of the former as to accuracy and ability. Our system of card records has been adopted by business institutions. The spirit of the public library is to give more service than the law requires. "People usually want money more than they want books, yet banks always have the office on the ground floor and as near the street as possible." He stressed the need of the librarian to know books. He gave good instances of the misuse of superseded books. . . . The evening and Sunday service is not so good, he says, as that of the regular week day, and it should be better, for the real worker and tax-payer.

Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl expressed the thanks of the League for a good program.

ARTHUR R. CURRY, *Acting Secretary.*

National Association of State Libraries

THE 1924 annual session of the National Association of State Libraries was opened on July 1 in the library of the Casino at Saratoga Springs, N. Y. There was a formal address of welcome by James I. Wyer, state librarian of the State of New York, to which a response was made by Clarence B. Lester, secretary of the Wisconsin Public Library Commission, and president of the Association.

Demarchus C. Brown, state librarian of Indiana, read a paper on "Distribution of State Documents." This was followed by a paper by Mr. Wyer on "Lettered and Unlettered Librarians," which was a criticism of more or less unbusinesslike methods frequently prevailing in the handling of correspondence both by librarians and those with whom librarians have business intercourse.

A general discussion followed on the proposition of the consolidation and condensation of state reports in one volume. The discussion developed the existence of a tendency in the various states to discontinue the publication of collected editions of state reports and, while this discontinuance was deplored, the consensus of opinion was also against the discontinuance of the publication of individual departmental reports. George S. Godard, state librarian of Connecticut, read a paper which was a continuation of his paper of 1922, giving a survey of the functions of state libraries.

On Wednesday morning a joint meeting was held with the Civic Division of the Special Libraries Association. A paper on "Statute Law Indexing" was read by H. H. B. Meyer of the

Library of Congress, in which Mr. Meyer told of the work that is now being done by the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress in compiling, in a single alphabet, an index of the legislation of the various states, excluding matters of only local interest or of relative unimportance. His thought was that this work should be developed to an extent that the information of these indexes could be made generally available. The work, he thought, should be done by the Library of Congress but, in order to carry it out properly, an appropriation of probably \$20,000 a year would be necessary. He did not think the Library of Congress itself could successfully ask for this appropriation from Congress, but suggested that the matter receive the attention of the state libraries and other interested libraries. A committee was appointed to take steps looking toward the preparation and advocacy of such a bill.

At this same session a paper was read by Edward D. Greenman, of the New York Bureau of Municipal Information, in which he outlined the plans followed by that association in keeping in touch with the New York State legislature for the benefit of the various municipalities of that state belonging to the Bureau and in making the Legislature familiar with the wants, needs and attitude of the New York municipalities with reference to municipal legislation.

On Thursday morning the Association held another meeting, at which the two suggestions discussed were the acquisition and care of archives and records and state library buildings. Mr. Godard presided at the archives meeting and formal papers were read by R. B. House, archivist of the North Carolina Historical Commission, and by John H. Edmunds, state archivist of Massachusetts. Elizabeth H. West, state librarian of Texas, presided over the symposium with reference to State Library buildings.

At the business meeting it was "Resolved. That it is the sense of this Association that State Libraries operate more effectively as independent bodies than as subordinate divisions of other State Departments." H. H. B. Meyer told of plans on foot for a national archives building and suggested the members of the association urge their respective Congressmen to favor the necessary appropriation for such a building.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Con. P. Cronin, state librarian, Phoenix, Arizona; first vice-president, H. J. Conant, assistant state librarian, Montpelier, Vermont; second vice-president, W. J. Millard, state law librarian, Olympia, Wash.; secretary-treasurer, Her-

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Southeastern Library Association

THE report of the Southeastern Library Association appears on page 668 of this issue.

Special Libraries Association

DAVID FRIDAY and Arthur E. Bostwick addressed the first general session held on Tuesday, July first, the president omitting his address.

Dr. Friday's theme was "The Plight of the Prosperous." He gave a careful, but most entertaining statistical analysis of some of the conditions prevalent in business today, showing that banking profits were at present twenty-five per cent on capital stock; that of the poor tax payers "bled white" only five million were paying federal income taxes while fifteen million drove automobiles.

Dr. Bostwick spoke on "The Business Library as a Phase of Group Service."

GROUP MEETINGS

There were several good group meetings which touched very closely the problems peculiar to their members. The largest was that of the Advertising - Commercial - Industrial group, under the leadership of Mary Louise Alexander. This drew an attendance of over a hundred. The subject of the discussion "The Marketing of Goods," was divided into eight topics: marketing, market analysis and statistics, retailing, advertising, salesmanship, foreign trade, transportation, prices. Each speaker gave a brief outline of the subject and listed a few of the best books and indispensable periodicals and services. These lists were of such exceptional value that they will be made available later, probably by publication in *Special Libraries*. Willard M. Kiplinger, of the Kiplinger Washington Agency, presented a paper on "Governmental Activities in Washington Affecting the Business Man."

In the Financial Group Alice L. Rose outlined the plans for the National Business and Financial Library founded by R. W. Porter of Poor's Publishing Company and to be housed at Wellesley Hills as a part of the Babson Park plant. This is to be a library which will furnish information, not only to the small investment houses, but also to the individual investor throughout the country, who is unable to pay for reliable information. It will also be a place where the large institutions, as well as

the smaller investment houses may turn for information not elsewhere available. A small annual membership fee for reference work will be charged those able to pay and there will be special fees for research.

Mary P. Billingsley of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and Marion G. Eaton of the Federal Reserve of Boston, discussed mutual helpfulness between east and west. C. C. Eaton of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration told of the need of more data regarding libraries than is supplied by the Directory, and a resolution was passed requesting the secretary of the association to publish each month in *Special Libraries*, lists of people willing to act as clearing houses for requests for information in their particular localities.

Eleanor S. Cavanaugh of the Standard Statistics Company discussed source material, and Robert L. Smiley of the Dixie Business Book Shop distributed lists and talked of some of the outstanding books of the year. Miss Bemis reported on the plan for the Library Exhibit to be held at the convention of the American Bankers Association in Chicago in September, and a committee of Chicago financial librarians was appointed to continue the work.

In the Technology Group a lively interest in plans for the coming year was evident. The work of this group will be largely carried on by committees, eleven of which are already organized. Sponsorship is again to the fore and fifteen preliminary reports were in the hands of the chairman before the meeting. These will be made available in mimeographed form for those who especially desire them.

The meeting of the Newspaper Group, while not large, was most enthusiastic. A large part of the program was taken up with organization. Discussion then turned to the subject of classification. The Dewey decimal classification was approved for books, but rejected for clipping files. Office methods, photo files, foreign telephone directories, syndicate photo service and binding came in among others, for a share of the attention.

In the Insurance Group Mrs. Bevan led the discussion on "What the Library Should do for the Salesman" and Mr. Handy that on Indexes to Insurance Periodicals. Miss Sillence of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents offered to lend material from a valuable clipping file she is maintaining.

The following officers were elected:

President, Daniel H. Handy, Insurance Library Association, Boston; vice-president, Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., Chamber of Commerce of U. S. A., Washington, D. C.; second vice-presi-

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Illinois Historical Library	Cornell University
Indiana State Library	North Carolina College for Women
Indianapolis, Ind.	Cleveland, Ohio
Library Commission, Des Moines, Ia.	Toledo, Ohio
Georgia State, Library	Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Kansas City, Mo.	Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Louisville, Ky.	Providence, R. I.
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LAURA R. GIBBS, *Secretary.*

Post-Conference Trip

ON July fifth the post-conference trip started under auspicious skies with a party of seventy librarians, including forty-two from the Middle West. The rest were from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the New England states, with variety introduced by delegates also from Oklahoma and Florida.

Discomforts due to heat and dust on the train were mitigated by views of Lake Champlain with its encircling mountains and of the summer landscape spread out in fields strewn with buttercups and daisies.

We spent two restful days at Westport Inn which is charmingly colonial in its furnishings and better than colonial as to cooking and plumbing. Some of us visited the library, notable for its pretty building and for the fact that it has never derived any revenue from town taxes.

On Monday, July seventh, we set out upon our grand tour, motoring thru Keene Valley to Cascade Lakes. Here, the old-fashioned inn of former days has been transformed into a branch of the Lake Placid Club and now stands renewed and beautiful against its mountain background. We were met by Mr. and Mrs. Dewey who greeted us with characteristic whole-souled hospitality. Far up on the cliffs, a channel worn by the cascades which give the lake its name, could be seen, but since it was the dry season, no water was flowing. To remedy this defect Mr. Dewey is having a storage reservoir built from which, in the future, water for scenic purposes may be released on demand.

Our progress toward Upper Saranac Lake was thru drizzling rain ending in a thunder storm, but as we drove up to Saranac Inn, the clouds were scattering, their edges gilded by the setting sun. Some members of the party were assigned to cottages which bore names not logically adapted to the inmates. "Cosmos" we interpreted as containing some of the most important members of creation, but this was scoffed at by others.

The next afternoon we motored thru the mountains to dine at the Lake Placid Club. Nothing could exceed the beauty of the scenery or the hospitality of our hosts, who enjoyed

with pardonable pride, our astonishment at the group of new buildings, classically named the Agora, which have arisen along the lake shore.

Time passed rapidly at Saranac Inn. Some of the more intrepid travelers visited the fish hatcheries whence rainbow trout, brook trout and land-locked salmon are dispensed to the streams and lakes of New York State. A pleasant incident of our stay was a gathering of our party on the veranda after supper to present to Mr. Faxon a token of our appreciation of his thoughtfulness and admirable management of the trip. A speech was delivered by Mr. Thorvald Solberg of Washington, D. C., to which Mr. Faxon replied with unembarrassed cheerfulness.

July tenth our journey led by way of Wilmington Notch to the Au Sable Chasm Hotel where we descended into the famous gorge by means of stairways and railings built in the rocks along the way. Here we looked down upon the black and dangerous river speeding with many falls and rapids between precipices towering two hundred feet above. The limestone rocks carved in grotesque forms by the action of the current afford many alluring caves and detours which were explored by Mr. Faxon and his intrepid followers. The last part of the trip was made in a boat sculled thru the narrow channel and down the rapids by athletic young men. After climbing the last of the steep stairways to the top of the chasm, there were still some members of the party with energy enough to visit the "fox fur farms" in the neighborhood. There they saw red foxes and silver foxes and live specimens of lynx, marten, mink and beaver taking their mid-day meal of meat, except the beaver, who feasted on the leafy branches of trees. Their fur was of summer quality, light and scraggy, and there were no puppies on exhibition, the latter being on the range at this season of the year.

Friday morning we went by boat thru Lake Champlain and were transferred by rail to Lake George, thru which we sailed with ever increasing delight. Captain Rockwell, our navigator, was an old timer, ninety-four years of age, and had been on the lake since boyhood, another illustration of what proper environment will accomplish in prolonging life and energy.

The end of a perfect day came at half-past four in the afternoon of July eleventh. Thenceforward it was a question of getting home as quickly as possible. At Albany the party broke up with many expressions of friendship and with the hope of meeting next year on the way to Alaska, which it is rumored will be the objective of the next post-conference trip.

HELEN SPERRY.

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